YORKSHIRE BIRD REPORT
2005

YORKSHIRE NATURALISTS' UNION

THE YORKSHIRE NATURALISTS' UNION (YNU)

The YNU is a registered charity founded in 1861. It is a federation of individual members and natural history societies based on the historic county of Yorkshire. Its aims are to study and record the county's wildlife and habitats, to publish its results and to encourage the use of that data to help conserve wildlife and habitats.

The YNU publishes four copies of the Naturalist, two Bulletins, and a Bird Report and jointly with Butterfly Conservation Yorkshire a Lepidoptera Report. In addition the YNU has published a number of books in recent years. Its annual report may be downloaded from its website at **www.ynu.org.uk**

The YNU is organised into sections covering various disciplines of natural history, which meet at regular intervals across the County. In addition all the sections come together for five main means held throughout the County. In March, each year, we hold an annual conference in Harrogate. We work closely with various statutory organisations e.g. Natural England, the region's local record centres and many other wildlife and conservation charities. The YNU also organises a series of training events through the year.

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Website address: **www.ynu.org.uk**

YORKSHIRE NATURALISTS' UNION

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EDITED BY

G. E. Dobbs

COMPILED BY

Mike Barnett
Geoff Dobbs
Jim Pewtress
Mike Pilsworth
Craig Thomas
John Wint
Steve Worwood

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Decisions of the Reports Committee are regularly posted on the YNU website

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The Yorkshire Naturalists' Union (YNU)
2008

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YORKSHIRE NATURALISTS' UNION
ORNITHOLOGICAL COMMITTEE

Chair: Craig Thomas 16 Scarborough Road, Filey, North Yorkshire. YO14 9EF
Tel: 01723 513055 e-mail *craigcthomas@yahoo.co.uk*

Secretary: Jim Pewtress 31 Percy End, Kirby Moorside, York. YO62 6DQ
Tel: 01751 431001 e-mail *trivialis@operamail.com*

Committee Member: Mike Pilsworth Hillcrest, Whitgift, Goole. DN14 8HL
Tel: 01405 704082 e-mail *mikepilsworth@hotmail.com*

Protection Liaison Officer: Doug Simpson 51 Heather Way, Harrogate. HG3 2SH
Tel: 01423 538645 e-mail *doug@milvus.me.uk*

Vice-County Recorders:

VC 61: Geoff Dobbs, 1 Priory Road, Beverley. HU17 0EG
Tel: 07778 559763 e-mail *geoffdobbs@aol.com*

VC 62: Alastair Forsyth, Moorview Cottage West, Glaisdale, Whitby. YO21 2PZ
Tel: 07771 626629 e-mail *birdsvc62@gmail.com*

VC 63: John Wint, 9 Yew Tree Park, Whitley, Goole. DN14 0NZ
Tel: 01977 662826 e-mail *john.wint@tiscali.co.uk*

VC 64: Phil Bone, 11 Dorrington Close, Pocklington. YO42 2GS
Tel: 07880 846905 e-mail *p.bone@csl.gov.uk*

VC 65: Steve Worwood, 18 Coltsgate Hill, Ripon, North Yorkshire. HG4 2AB
Tel: 01765 602518 e-mail *steve@worwood.entadsl.com*

Guillemot Scarborough Photo: Dave Mansell

Shag Scarborough Photo: Dave Mansell

INTRODUCTION

The aim of this Report is to provide as complete a record as possible for birds in Yorkshire in 2005. It is the first full county report since 1997, so an attempt has been made to establish the status of each species, and to identify population trends in the intervening period. It is therefore more detailed than usual. From 1998 to 2004, only the rare and scarce species have been covered by annual YNU reports. Some local reports were not available for the compilation of this report - reports for Barnsley, Huddersfield and York have yet to be published, and since the last full YNU Report in 1997, the Doncaster, Five Towns and Whitby Reports have ceased publication. Nevertheless, the recorders have collected the more significant records from these areas.

For the 2005 Systematic List, the YNU has retained the names and species order as set out by the BOURC for the *Checklist of Birds of Britain and Ireland*, and any subsequent up-dates up to November 2005 have been incorporated. The sequence and some of the names used by the BOU may be controversial, but it is the "official" list. The YNU Reports Committee continues to publish only those records accepted by BOURC and BBRC.

From January 2006, seventeen species were dropped from the list of species requiring descriptions by BBRC and these now become YNU species. In June 2007, it was decided to reduce the number of species requiring a description by the YNU, backdated to January 2006, partly in response to the new workload of judging the former BBRC species and partly to rationalise the list based on the very low or zero rejection rates for some species records in recent years. Those species requiring a description by the YNU are listed later in this report

The YNU recognises that the increasing use of digital cameras is changing the way many records are submitted, particularly for non-passerines, where a good photograph makes detailed description superfluous. The YNU welcomes electronic submission of records, but if the finder and/or identifier are to be credited in the Report, they must provide some details about the sighting, including name(s), date, exact location and other relevant information. Some records have been verified through examination of photographs published in local reports or posted on websites, and in the latter circumstance, the website is acknowledged.

A review of Montagu's Harrier records submitted for the period 2000-2006 is to be conducted, the results of which will be published in the 2006 Report.

The YNU Report is arranged by Watsonian Vice-County again for 2005, as in 1997. The YNU records all flora and fauna by using the VC system. This is less usual in the ornithological world, with many, but not all, counties following the post-1974 boundaries. To the south, Derbyshire adopts the post-1974 boundaries, so those parts of South Yorkshire that were extended beyond the VC 63 boundary in 1934 and 1968 are included in this report, otherwise the records would be lost. These extensions include Blacka Moor and Rother Valley Country Park. Similarly, an area west of Todmorden transferred to Yorkshire from Lancashire in 1889, but still in VC 59, is included in this report – it forms part of the Halifax recording area. The YNU continues to publish records from South Cleveland, part of VC 62, but assessment of records from that area is by the Cleveland County Recorder and Teesmouth Bird Club.

VC maps are now more widely available on the internet, so it is not difficult to determine the boundaries. Ordnance Survey grid references for any site can be converted to VC at the Herbaria*United* website www.herbariaunited.org/gridrefVC/ and information on site grid references are easily obtained from the online Ordnance Survey "Get a Map" facility, or from the site directories on www.birdguides.com. Nevertheless, overlapping recording areas of some local societies, both with each other and in terms of VC boundaries, adds complexities to report compilation! It is not planned to produce bird reports from 2006 using the Vice County structure, as 2005 is something of a one-off in terms of size and detail. It will form the basis for a checklist being produced by the YNU for all forms of wildlife, and provides a detailed comparison for the 1997 Report. These reports mark the start and end of my tenure as Report Editor.

The YNU Ornithological Committee is planning to develop a website where VC maps will be available, and photographs and descriptions of birds posted.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are again due to the assistance of the editors of local bird reports in the county, and the Vice-County Recorders who collated and adjudicated records and helped to write their VC areas. We are grateful to Ian Court and Paul Irving for information from the Yorkshire Dales Upland Bird Study Area, Doug Simpson for information about the Red Kite, Keith Clarkson for Bempton seabird data and assistance from Greg Conway, John Marchant and Andy Musgrove of the BTO, who provided survey results. Particular thanks are due to the writers of each VC section: – Geoff Dobbs (VC's 61 and 62), Mike Barnett (VC63 north), John Wint (VC63 south), Jim Pewtress (VC64), and Steve Worwood (VC65), to Craig Thomas for the calendar, and to Richard Dale and Paul Leonard for the excellent artwork. We are pleased this year to be able to include photographs from many more photographers, and would like to thank the following photographers who submitted work for consideration: Mike Ashforth, Mike Bayldon, Chris Brogdale, Tony Collinson, Lee Davis, Lynne Demaine, Martin Garner, Vince Garvey, Simon Gray, Barry Hanson, John Harriman, Roy Harvey, John Hewitt, Jon Horton, Adam Hutt, Kev Joynes, Steve Keightley, Iain Leach, Jon Lowes, Roy Lyon, Dave Mansell, Peter Martin, Paul Meredith, Russell Pattison, Gareth Picton, Keith Pickering, Darren Robson, John Rochester, Russell Slack, Mark Thomas, Stephen Tomlinson, Darren Ward, Simon Wilson and Pete Wragg. .

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Highlights of 2005

Four new species for the county were added this year. In April, a Belted Kingfisher was seen briefly at Eastrington Ponds, in May a Snow Goose that had wintered in Norfolk was seen flying north with Pinkfeet from five coastal watch-points, in June, an Audouin's Gull was seen briefly at Beacon Ponds NR and in July, a Pacific Swift flew south at Spurn. The majority of Yorkshire birdwatchers failed to catch up with any of these birds. Although the provenance of any Snow Goose can be questionable, the association and migration with Pink-footed Geese, even though it was one of the last to leave Norfolk, was sufficient for the Reports Committee to accept as a wild bird.

2005 also saw the county's 2nd Chimney Swift, 3rd, 4th and 5th Dartford Warblers, 7th Pallid Swift, 8th presumed Fea's Petrel, 8th Desert Wheatear, 9th and 10th Lesser Yellowlegs, 10th Black Stork, 11th and 12th Laughing Gulls and 12th Spotted Sandpiper. There were seven sightings of Great Shearwater, and after the autumn storms, a massive 76 sightings of Leach's Storm-petrels and 25 Grey Phalaropes. Passage migrants in above average numbers included 57 Wrynecks, 26 Barred Warblers, 15 Greenish Warblers (more numerous than Pallas's) and a record 245 Yellow-browed Warblers.

The number of Whooper Swans and Pink-footed Geese seen on passage continues to increase, together with wintering Bitterns and summer-visiting Little Egrets. Although most raptors are doing well, Hen Harrier only just hangs on. It was an excellent summer for singing Quail and Black Grouse may still be recovering. More Black-tailed Godwits are wintering on the Humber, but most other wader

numbers were generally down including Purple Sandpiper and Turnstone. It was a poor winter for Glaucous and Iceland Gulls as more tips are being closed, but Mediterranean Gull numbers are still increasing, although not breeding. Passage numbers of Roseate Terns was at an all-time high. Many Waxwings enhanced inland urban locations in the first winter period. In addition to the Dartford Warbler invasion, there were also three Cetti's Warblers in the county, reflecting the recent mild winters – perhaps both are likely additions to the breeding bird list.

What about the breeding birds? A number of species are expanding their populations, and others, mostly trans-Saharan migrants and farmland birds, are in decline. Although the Breeding Bird Survey figures should be treated cautiously, as sample size for some species is too small to be relied upon, 2005 was not a good year for a dozen species that had been recently been recovering. The lists below suggest categories for some of the breeding birds for the county.

Species that appear to be increasing 1998-2005

Greylag Goose
Canada Goose
Mandarin Duck
Common Pochard
Gadwall
Mallard
Tufted Duck
Black Grouse
Pheasant
Gannet
Great Cormorant
Red Kite
Marsh Harrier
Buzzard
Kestrel
Hobby
Peregrine
Oystercatcher
Avocet
Common Tern
Stock Dove
Wood Pigeon
Barn Owl
Nightjar
Kingfisher
Green Woodpecker
Great Spotted Woodpecker
House Martin
Robin
Stonechat
Blackbird
Song Thrush
Reed Warbler
Blackcap
Great Tit
Raven
Tree Sparrow
Chaffinch

Species that appear to be decreasing 1998-2005

Grey Partridge
Golden Plover
Curlew
Snipe
Dunlin
Turtle Dove
Cuckoo
Common Swift
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker
Skylark
Meadow Pipit
Tree Pipit
Yellow Wagtail
Nightingale
Redstart
Whinchat
Ring Ousel
Wood Warbler
Pied Flycatcher
Spotted Flycatcher
Willow Tit
Magpie
Rook
Starling
House Sparrow
Linnet
Twite
Bullfinch
Hawfinch
Corn Bunting

Species that appeared to be increasing, but data suggests a reversal 2004-5

Lapwing
Barn Swallow
Pied Wagtail
Wren
Common Whitethroat
Chiffchaff
Willow Warbler
Long-tailed Tit
Blue Tit
Jackdaw
Greenfinch
Goldfinch

Species that appeared to be decreasing, but data suggests a recovery 2004-5

Mistle Thrush
Lesser Redpoll
Yellowhammer

Status uncertain or stable in 2005

Eurasian Wigeon
Goosander
Little Grebe
Great Crested Grebe
Northern Fulmar
Grey Heron
Sparrowhawk
Merlin
Common Coot
Little Ringed Plover
Ringed Plover
Woodcock
Common Sandpiper*
Tawny Owl
Little Owl
Kingfisher
Collared Dove
Sand Martin
Grey Wagtail
Dipper
Hedge Accentor*
Northern Wheatear*
Grasshopper Warbler
Sedge Warbler
Garden Warbler
Lesser Whitethroat
Goldcrest
Marsh Tit
Coal Tit
Nuthatch
Treecreeper
Reed Bunting
Siskin

Those species where there have been recent or suspected decreases are asterisked *. The slight decline in BBS Hedge Accentor (Dunnock) figures is too small to be significant. Observers reported declines in the

other marked species. Some of the species above may be increasing – Sparrowhawk, Collared Dove, and Nuthatch amongst them – but there is little evidence other than anecdotal records. Further information is in the Systematic List.

DESCRIPTION REQUIREMENTS

It is our aim to continue to present these reports with complete accuracy so that those who use them in the future may accept the records of all species without doubt or query.

British Birds Rarities

All national rarities must be described and accepted by **BBRC** to be included in the **YNU** report. We would prefer to receive the description first and will forward it immediately to **BBRC**. **BBRC** do request that all records be submitted through the County Recorder system. Failing this, we would at least expect to receive a copy. A list of species for which descriptions are required by **BBRC** for publication in their *Annual Report on Rare Birds in Great Britain* is available from *British Birds*.

County Rarities

Following an extensive review in June 2007, descriptions are now required for the species and subspecies listed below, backdated to January 2006. The committee reserves the right not to publish records of scarce birds which cannot be attributed to a named observer and are unsupported by photographic evidence.

Taiga Bean Goose
Black Brant
Ruddy Shelduck
American Wigeon
Ferruginous Duck
Surf Scoter
Wilson's Storm-petrel
Black-crowned Night Heron
Great White Egret
Purple Heron
European Honey-buzzard
Black Kite
White-tailed Eagle
Montagu's Harrier
Rough-legged Buzzard
Golden Eagle
Red-footed Falcon
Kentish Plover
American Golden Plover
White-rumped Sandpiper
Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Red-necked Phalarope [flight only]
Caspian Gull
Ring-billed Gull
White-winged Black Tern
Alpine Swift
Short-toed Lark
Red-rumped Swallow
Tawny Pipit
Red-throated Pipit
Aquatic Warbler
Marsh Warbler
Melodious Warbler
Dartford Warbler
Subalpine Warbler
Greenish Warbler
Radde's Warbler
Dusky Warbler
Woodchat Shrike
Red-billed Chough
Arctic Redpoll
Cirl Bunting
Rustic Bunting
Little Bunting

Races and other unusual occurrences

The Committee will require descriptions to support records of difficult to determine races, particularly those whose taxonomic status is under review (including Black-bellied Dipper and Siberian Chiffchaff).

The Reports Committee **may** request descriptions to support records of well-defined races of commoner species, (e.g. Grey-headed Wagtail), or to support records of migrant birds out of season, and commoner birds seen in unusual circumstances.

In the cases of closely related species groups such as American/Pacific Golden Plover, Pratincole sp. and Dowitcher *sp.* where no specific identification has been reached, **BBRC** will not judge these records. They will be considered by the **YNU** for the sake of completeness and to monitor occurrences.

The committee is willing to assist in adjudicating any records for local Groups and Societies.

Descriptions

The work of the Reports Committee can be aided considerably if observers submit descriptions as soon as possible after the bird has been seen. Details should include the description taken in the field before reference to any text books; the locality; date and time; habitat; weather conditions; optical aids used; distance from the bird; period of observation; species present for comparison, if any, and previous experience of the species. If anyone disagrees with the identification, that should also be noted. The YNU welcomes the electronic submission of records and photographs, with the provision that some detail is supplied about location, first and last dates and the name(s) of the finder(s). Descriptions and photographs can be e-mailed to the relevant VC Recorder or the editor.

If the finder/identifier has not submitted the record, but a photograph has been posted in a magazine or on the internet, the website address or magazine will be credited.

Forms for submitting details based upon those by the **BBRC** can be obtained from any Vice-County Recorder or by e-mail from the editors.

Sabine's Gull Photo: John Lowes

BIRD RECORDING – THE FUTURE?

Thank you for doing so but why have you have bought this report?

You'll probably have noticed that it's a report about birds recorded in Yorkshire around three years ago but have you considered why it should apparently be appearing so long after the birds have "flown"? That it does contain details of records and trends which occurred so long ago must not be considered as a criticism of those who have written and edited the report. Yorkshire is far from being alone in producing bird reports many months after the bird themselves have moved on but wouldn't it be something to cheer if Yorkshire could be at the forefront of bird report production and be among the first to publish an annual report within, say, a few months of the year end? "Pie in the sky" and "It'll never happen" you might think but would you be surprised to learn that Yorkshire could be on the brink of achieving such ambitious targets?

Putting matters simply, the technology is more or less in place for bird records to be collected County-wide almost as soon as the notes of those records are taken. At the same time, the same facility can be available to local bird recording societies and groups and also, possibly, individuals who can not only submit records but also can access and interrogate them too. All it will take is the support and co-operation of the birding community throughout Yorkshire.

What follows is by way of advance notice of what will hopefully, with your support and input, be important future developments in the methods of recording birds and wildlife generally within the County and more widely. Here is a brief overview of what can happen if we can have your help.

Before summarising the forthcoming developments it might help some readers who may not fully understand how a report such as this comes into being if I give a fairly brief run through the process of putting a report together for publication.

Of course, it all starts with the birder going out to his or her favourite site, or a casual visit to any site, where birds are seen and notes made of what was there. Now, not all birdwatchers take notes and some who do simply keep records for their own personal pleasure and information. Nothing wrong with that at all but wouldn't it be better if those records were shared into the local and county databases? The records which are shared very often are passed on to a local recorder who will store them until the year end, ready for a local bird report to be produced. Sometimes, however, the records kept by individuals and groups are hoarded until the year end and then sent to the local or County recorders in one often large "lump". Whatever method is used – and this varies widely – once the year has closed and all records have been gathered in, local recorders and committees will set about the publication of their own local bird report. That report might appear at any time from a few months after the year end to a year or more later. Whenever it appears, the local report goes to subscribers and other interested parties and a copy is also sent to the Vice-county Recorder who stores it until he (she) has received all the expected reports for the relevant year. Gathering of all those separate reports, as well as records given directly and to other sources such as the pagers and web-based collection systems, will finally be completed many months later – in Yorkshire's case, currently over two years later. So, some time down the line, Vice-county Recorders and their colleagues can begin to compile the County Annual Bird Report which eventually is published. Report writing and editing at both local and county levels takes an immense amount of time and commitment, all of which is given voluntarily and that time has to be fitted around all other responsibilities such as work and domestic obligations. So, as I hope you'll see, the whole process of producing a report from start to finish is not exactly the simplest of undertakings.

Another, sometimes just as important aspect of keeping personal notes and records for a long time before sharing them with a recorder is that, occasionally, notebooks get lost and the valuable information they contain is gone forever.

Wouldn't it be so much better if a County-wide system existed which would enable individuals and local societies to store or, at least backup their records into a network of easily accessible (subject to controls around ownership and copyright among other issues) databases? Well, such a system – comprising a network of Local Record Centres (LRCs) – does already exist within Yorkshire and it has been constructed with some very high-powered support. It's not just a whim of the people who have put this Report together but something much more substantial supported by major partners including Natural England , DEFRA and local authorities. The idea for a network of records centres is not new but the Yorkshire and Humber Region is among the first to look positively at establishing a network and, consequently, there is much interest from outside our area.

The Yorkshire and Humber Regional Assembly, with assistance from a range of partners, has put together a document called The Yorkshire Plan which looks at the next decade's development and land use in the County, giving attention to issues such as planning applications. A great deal of emphasis has been placed on the importance of the County's wildlife with a view to delivering developments which provide benefits for wildlife rather than destroying it. One of the key considerations in protecting the County's wildlife arises from a better system for recording, storing and analysing records and the LRC network offers exactly that. At present, while recording of Yorkshire's birds is carried out to a very high level of accuracy and attention, the wider record set is very much fragmented because records are held in so many different places. Because of this fragmentation, our wildlife is more vulnerable to inappropriate developments. By consolidating records into a network of data centres the risks to all our wildlife presented by those inappropriate developments can be challenged and, hopefully, suitably amended or even overcome.

Within the LRC system there are facilities for validation of records. Indeed, records do not fully enter the database until they have been validated. The LRC network will not only provide easy access to data for recorders, it can also offer a safe, off-site backup for their irreplaceable records.

Records submitted by local society or group recorders will, mostly, be treated as already having been validated at the local level except where the species nominated requires a more formal description. Records can be validated via the LRC database and offering this easy-to-use recording system should encourage a wider range of observers to submit their data. This will, hopefully, increase recording of the so-called "commoner" species and, probably, by "unknown" observers. Some of these so-called "common" species have in the past been treated as, effectively, unworthy of detailed recording with the consequence that where the species has suddenly declined, there is insufficient historical data to help understand when or how the decline started – e.g. the House Sparrow. Encouragement to "unknown" observers to submit their records will enhance the range of observers and bring in "new blood" to fill any gaps.

Within the whole LRC system, safeguards will be in place to protect data held for vulnerable species – e.g. breeding raptors.

Once stored in the LRC database records can be accessed at a variety of detail levels by the data owners, local and County recorders and report writers, planners, *et al*. Access for data owners will be at the level of detail at which they submit records and there are adequate safeguards to protect the data owner's copyright in the data. Provision of data into and out of the LRC database will all be done under signed agreements which make ownership and access rights clear, as necessary. Encouraging wider submission of records will also, hopefully, result in an increase in local society and group membership. Additionally, it may also assist in removing the perceived "us and them" culture which some "outsiders" see as existing within the birdwatching fraternity.

It is hoped that not only local birding groups and societies will support and contribute data to this project but also that larger membership organisations and those commercially engaged in the bird "industry" in the County will become involved. There is considerable potential in establishing this system but its success depends extremely heavily upon the cooperation of bird record makers at all levels within the County.

With the data being collected more quickly into the LRC network, Yorkshire and its local natural history societies and bird clubs will be in a position to publish their reports much sooner than at present. Other disciplines, e.g. Lepidoptera, are able to publish reports about six months after the year end. Arguably, they have fewer species and fewer actual/potential recorders but they do have a system for collating records swiftly and this is an objective we would aim to achieve in terms of producing local and county bird reports.

One of the additional benefits of a county- and (in time) country-wide network of records centres is that conservation data can be looked at on a much wider scale. For example, if there are records to show where Golden Plover flocks winter annually in Yorkshire or within the different vice-counties, by linking the records together and by also linking to other records centres' data it will be possible to see the importance and significance of Yorkshire's birds within the regional and national pictures. **But** this can only happen if those who make bird records are willing to share them and do so, not at irregular intervals but frequently so that Local Record Centre databases are as up-to-date as possible. Arguably, it is to contribute to the value of wildlife recording that we make records in the first instance and, for those who don't keep records – or who keep them but don't share them, the potential value of those records as outlined above will, hopefully, encourage them to actually send their notes to local or county recorders.

The output available from the LRC database will have a number of features including the facility to enable local and county recorders to overlay data on maps which can be incorporated into reports – a feature which will greatly enhance those reports and possibly reduce the workload of report writers. Additionally, collecting records into a database has the potential to better inform planning applications. Currently, planners may be encouraged to think that if no data for a given area is readily available, no such data exists and thus that the area in question has no ecological value. By collecting data together more robustly, such situations can be avoided.

Yorkshire Naturalists' Union hosted a conference to introduce these issues in early February 2008. Invitations were issued as widely as possible to take in as much of the County's birding community as possible including the more commercial contributors and especially those who are sceptical about sharing records. If you didn't get an invitation but want to know more, please get in touch with me. Without the input from the birding community and, in particular, their willingness to share records, this project will never reach its true potential.

The future of the environment and all its constituents is, after all, our main concern. Put simply, that's surely why we're out there looking at what is around. Collection and collation of our records into a network of centres represents a major step forward in helping to ensure the continuity and survival of all those creatures we enjoy observing and which we hold most dear. For those already involved in recording please give this initiative your support. For those not yet involved, I trust the importance and potential of this development will persuade them to either start collecting and submitting records or to elect to share the records which they have diligently made but which, until now, they might have been reluctant to release.

On a more formal note, there is and will be in place a system of memoranda of agreement which require local authority executive approval, service level agreements covering the style of services which will be available from the network and, most importantly from your point of view, agreements relating to the security, safeguarding, storing and archiving of your valuable records. Ask yourself why you are looking at wildlife. Undoubtedly it is for personal pleasure but is it not also because you care about that wildlife, want to see it and conserve it? If you're only there to gain some personal kudos from being able to say "I've seen XYZ species on 123 dates at ABC sites" then maybe all of this isn't for you but perhaps you might be persuaded to change your emphasis and think about contributing more "ordinary" (and extraordinary) records to the wider picture for the future? By joining in and submitting or sharing your records, you'll be helping to conserve habitats and the wildlife they contain. You could offer those records for inclusion in local and County reports or you could even produce your own report. As a somewhat minor benefit, you could even get your own or your local group's logo and weblink onto the Yorkshire and Humber Environmental Data Network website which, of course, will give your group more opportunities to receive records and, better still, more scope for increasing membership which, in turn will increase records allowing an increase in membership – and so on and so on. The opportunities are immense.

Please join in this initiative which, in summary, represents a major advance in the approach to bird recording generally, and certainly in Yorkshire. It will enable the timely production of even better quality bird reports and the ability to credibly inform those seeking data and interpretation of it – e.g. Government bodies, environmentalists, planning consultants and the like.

John Wint
February 2008

Bittern Photo: Iain Leach

CALENDAR 2005

January

Another mild start, with windy south-westerlies maintaining temperatures throughout. The year opened with the drake Ring-necked Duck still in residence at Tophill; it remained in the general area until the third week of April. Also hanging on were two Grey Phalaropes at Filey Brigg, although they frustrated observers by spending long periods well offshore. The mild weather stalled a coastal influx of divers and grebes, with a Red-necked Grebe at Filey a New Year's present, before promptly vanishing. Both Flamborough and Filey commented on the scarcity of Red-throated Divers, with the former having its quietest ever year for the species - a sign of things to come? Most attention focussed inland, with huge flocks of Waxwing thrilling the crowds in the South and West Ridings; 300 in Sheffield, 520 in Huddersfield, 300 in Brighouse and 600 in Bradford. Likewise, lingering Cetti's Warblers at Blacktoft and Worsborough filled a gap in several Yorkshire lists. Eight Tundra Bean Geese at Wykeham Lakes on 2nd January played hard to get, and with odd birds here in subsequent months, this site is firmly established as the place to catch up with this (sub-) species.

A Slavonian Grebe proved photogenic at Hay-a Park GP during a fortnightly stay from 16th January; the coast however, drew a blank. Seawatch teams were rewarded with a Sooty Shearwater past Flamborough on 15th, a Black-throated Diver at Ravenscar and a Great Northern Diver at Spurn both 22nd and single Manx and Sooty Shearwaters past Flamborough next day. Coastal fields were worth checking, with 80 Snow Buntings at Port Mulgrave on 16th, 140 at Grimston on 29th, Lapland Buntings peaked at eight at Aldbrough on 27th and Twite reached a creditable 45 at Flamborough on 30th. Moderate north-westerlies at the month end induced a movement of 2189 Fulmars north past Flamborough and a Great Northern Diver past Spurn on 29th and a Black-throated Diver at Barmston remained into March.

February

There was little change to the mild spell until easterly winds in the third week brought brief, but significant, snowfall to parts of the region; the month closed with a switch to cold northerly winds. A Great Northern Diver sheltered off Barmston on the opening day, but the discovery of a Great Grey Shrike in the extreme west precipitated the first twitch of the year. Showing well on the edge of Stocksbridge from 3rd to 15th February, this individual constituted a much appreciated and, nowadays, unusual mid-winter visitor to the county. On the coast seven Velvet Scoters flew north past Spurn on 4th and the same location sampled the start of the Pink-footed Goose exodus from Norfolk, when 1670 headed north over the peninsula on 13th. An Iceland Gull influx gathered pace from 6th with first-winters at Flamborough, Rufforth and Lakeside; the latter giving good views to a procession of birders through the following week.

By the month end new individuals had been reported from several sites, including Sheffield, Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, an adult joining the first-winter at Rufforth and at Scarborough. Hardy watchers at Flamborough were rewarded with a Grey Phalarope north on 17th, while of ever increasing value were three Glaucous Gulls north along the coast on 19th; two headed past Filey, with a different bird later passing north at Barmston. Both Black-throated and Great Northern Divers provided nice comparisons at Spurn on 21st, while a Grey Phalarope headed past Filey Brigg on 26th. Eagles were on the menu on the 27th; first, news broke of a Bald Eagle in North Yorkshire. However, interest waned when it relocated to the hard shoulder of the A1 and revealed jesses. Much more appetising was the sight of an immature White-tailed Eagle west over Langsett Reservoir in the early afternoon, although unfortunately this magnificent bird chose not to linger. The month ended with a Great Northern Diver off Skipsea on 28th.

March

The month began with cold northerlies suppressing any thoughts of an early spring; not until the third week did winds shift to a more southerly direction and a trickle of migrants appear. However, one consistent feature was the lack of rain and the winter ended as the driest for thirty years. 'Northern' seabirds were recorded along the coast early on, with small numbers of Little Auk supplementing the likes of Great Northern and Black-throated Divers in Filey Bay on 5th. On the latter date, an adult Iceland Gull was discovered at Spurn, while a summer-plumaged Black-throated Diver provided an attractive diversion there two days later.

A flock of 129 departing Whooper Swans at Cherry Cob Sands on 14th was a reminder that despite the temperature, some birds realised spring was on the way. A single Black-throated Diver off Flamborough and three at Barmston on 15th illustrated that this is a good month to connect with the species. However, the first real sign of spring came on 16th when Filey Dams hosted a Green-winged Teal, which was surely bound for more northern latitudes. Milder conditions then brought instant rewards, when Spurn pulled in the first Firecrest on 19th. A flock of 117 Whooper Swans flew north over

Elvington on 20th, while heading in a similar direction was an Osprey over North Duffield Carrs on 23rd. South-easterlies on the latter date prompted the arrival of two Firecrests at Spurn and three Shore Larks at Flamborough, with the latter building gradually to six by early April. Ardsley Reservoir and South Gare both hosted Great Grey Shrikes on 28th, with yet another on the Wolds between Kilham and Driffield two days later. Light easterlies featured throughout the last week; these weather conditions were no doubt responsible for a scattering of Black Redstarts down the Yorkshire coast, as well as the displacement of 52 intermedius Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Flamborough on 30th; March ended with a Woodlark south through Spurn.

April

After a quiet start, the dry spell ended with winds predominantly from the east from mid-month. Light, relatively mild south-easterlies on 2nd induced an early Swift at Flamborough and, more exceptionally, two Dotterel at Cowbar. Great Grey Shrikes were discovered on Grassington Moor and Broomhead Moor, but Yorkshire's bird of the year fell to a dog-walker at little known Eastrington Ponds, near Howden. While many of the region's birders headed south to see the Belted Kingfisher at Shrugborough in Staffordshire, it promptly flew north over their heads to settle at this wetland reserve. To the chagrin of many, its stay was brief; next stop Aberdeenshire! More mundane, a Hooded Crow appeared at Beacon Ponds on 4th, while the birding until mid-month reflected the weather – quiet! A cool easterly developed on 14th and brought immediate rewards with a Great Grey Shrike at Redlingham and another at Flamborough the following day, when a Crane appeared near Wressle.

Yet another Great Grey Shrike was discovered in roadside bushes at Fylingthorpe on 16th and the same weather conditions caused a small arrival of Ring Ouzels along the coast; four at Easington, two at Flamborough and seven at Filey. A Hoopoe provided a touch of the exotic at Flamborough on 17th, but typically its stay was brief. Hornsea Mere hosted a Red-necked Grebe from 19th, with Great Grey Shrikes at Spurn the following day and near Harrogate on 21st. A warm pulse of air in the last week finally gave hope for southern overshoots. Yorkshire's earliest Temminck's Stint was in the vanguard at Filey Dams on 26th, when North Cave hosted a Wood Sandpiper. However, such conditions always favour Spurn; its mini-spell began with the now annual Red-rumped Swallow through on 27th and a Nightingale there next day. A White Stork in off the sea and a twitchable Serin entered the Spurn log on 29th. Further up the coast two Dotterel rested in fields at Aldbrough, with five more at Humbleton and three on Ingleborough. The final day of April produced good counts of 135 Whimbrel roosting at Wheldrake and a fall of migrants included 170 Wheatear at Spurn.

May

Light south-easterly winds on the opening day were conducive to overshooting migrants, with Spurn having a cracking day with a Red-rumped Swallow, Wryneck and Subalpine Warbler, while further up the coast, Flamborough witnessed an arrival of 119 Wheatear. A Serin at Ravenscar on 2nd was an excellent record away from Spurn, while the latter locality managed yet another Red-rumped Swallow. A first-winter Snow Goose had wintered with Pink-footed Geese in East Anglia; hopes were high that someone would spot in returning to high latitudes. It departed the Norfolk coastline early morning of 3rd and alert birders later watched it head north at Spurn, before others enjoyed the same over Grimston, Filey and Scarborough. The relatively warm conditions featured throughout the first week and the north versus south theme continued. A Red-rumped Swallow hawked insects over Blacktoft on 4th, followed by a Rough-legged Buzzard in off at Spurn the following day. Little changed during a spell of cool north winds, until a high established west of Scotland dragging in light easterlies mid-month; a male Bluethroat graced Spurn on 14th and reminded birders what they looked like! A Serin frequented the same locality next day, when two Temminck's Stints arrived at Wombwell, with others at Nosterfield and Tophill. A Hoopoe dazzled at Flamborough on 16th, while Yorkshire's Temminck's hot-spot, North Cave, cashed in with three on 17th. With light winds and warm temperatures, weather conditions were prime for southern overshoots; a Golden Oriole came in off at Sandsend on 18th, with another next day at Sammy's Point, when Quail were calling at Bempton and Ruston Carr. A Red-rumped Swallow flew through Spurn on 20th, followed next day by a Bee-eater and Hooded Crow.

Temperatures climbed further in sunny, light south-westerlies on 22nd; two Golden Orioles flew through Filey Dams, with another at Spurn, where a Serin and another Red-rumped Swallow brightened proceedings. The latter location maintained its dominance with a Grey-headed Wagtail on 23rd, a Nightjar next day, an Alpine Swift at nearby Sammy's Point on 25th and Golden Oriole and a one-day Woodchat Shrike on 26th. A Hooded Crow at Flamborough on the latter date surely looked and felt like mere scraps! An overcast night in light north-easterly winds on 27th induced a superb singing Greenish Warbler to Flamborough, while further up the coast a Purple Heron arrived for a two-day stay at Coatham Marsh. As temperatures rose overnight, thoughts switched back to southern overshoots; a Golden Oriole appeared at Flamborough, the Red-rumped Swallow through Spurn felt

inevitable; a Nightjar in off at Beacon Ponds was a much more unusual sight, while Filey logged a local record five Hobbies through. An Alpine Swift scythed through Spurn on 29th, when a more co-operative Rose-coloured Starling was discovered on the outer head at Flamborough. May ended with traditional fare, in the shape of a Red-backed Shrike at Spurn on the final day; a reminder of how scarce these, and other similar Scandinavian-bound migrants, have become.

June

The month opened in spectacular fashion with the discovery of the UK's second ever Audouin's Gull at Beacon Ponds on the afternoon of 1st; a second-summer, it proved only slightly more co-operative than the Belted Kingfisher and soon headed west up the Humber, never to be seen again. A Honey Buzzard in off at Scarborough on 3rd June may have been close to its final destination, whereas a Temminck's Stint at Flamborough the following day still had some way to go. However, Yorkshire listers interest was focussed inland on the latter date, when a Dartford Warbler was discovered at Blacka Moor, west of Sheffield. Present for a week, it was widely appreciated and the first chance for the new Yorkshire generation to see one since 1989. A high pressure established over the UK at the end of the first week and light easterly winds brought immediate rewards; Spurn attracted a Rose-coloured Starling, while Flamborough managed a Grey-headed Wagtail on 7th, while a singing Marsh Warbler and Hooded Crow were at Spurn and Easington respectively next day. More unexpected still was the arrival of the drake Green-winged Teal for a protracted stay at Edderthorpe from 9th.

Temperatures continued to climb in the third week, no doubt suiting the Golden Oriole at Flamborough on 18th and also responsible for a degree of raptor movement, including nine Marsh Harriers through Spurn next day. A Roseate Tern at Beacon Ponds on 20th was the first of the season, with exciting news of another UK breeder mid-month; a pair of Cranes hatched two young within the county, but unfortunately both failed to fledge. Another Crane flew north through Thorganby Ings on 24th, when 11 Quail were calling in the Lower Derwent NNR. An unseasonal Black-throated Diver was off Barmston on 26th and the following day Flamborough again attracted an adult Rose-coloured Starling.

July

After an unsettled start, high pressure dominated bringing hot, settled conditions until cool, damp northerlies established in the final week. A with June, the month began with a fantastic bird at Spurn; unfortunately the southbound Pacific Swift on 1st proved even less co-operative than the Audouin's and showed only to the finder. Good views of Sabine's Gulls are normally confined to a long, increasingly uncomfortable seawatch, or an even less pleasant pelagic. However, the month brought salvation to the landlubber, when an immaculate adult flew past the incredulous finder at Knottingley on 2nd; over forthcoming days it settled to give a procession of frame-filling views. Five Quail were calling from Wykeham Carrs on 5th and surely represent 'the tip of the iceberg' when considering the plethora of habitat in the Vale.

Mid-July usually witnesses the seawatch teams dusting down their optics and an immediate bonus included both Pomarine and Long-tailed Skuas at Flamborough on 10th. A Bee-eater flew south through Spurn on 11th, while further up the estuary ten Mediterranean Gulls roosted on Paull Holme Strays. The tern warden at Beacon Ponds was rewarded for hours of sterling effort when a Buff-breasted Sandpiper pitched down on 20th. Inland birders brave enough to juggle with the vagaries of eclipse ducks were delighted to discover a drake Lesser Scaup at Cleasby GP. Cool northerlies on 22nd prompted eight Velvet Scoters north past Flamborough, while along the coast a first-summer Laughing Gull showed well on Scalby Lodge Ponds. Although it quickly moved on, 'new generation' birders would not have long to wait! A Black-throated Diver passed Flamborough on 24th, while observers present the following day logged an impressive 13,800 Puffins.

August

Winds remained from the north until the middle of the month, when they switched to migrant-stopping westerlies. A Caspian Tern south past Spurn on 5th would have been much appreciated had it chose to linger, while a Spotted Crake skulked at Edderthorpe next day. A Black Stork drifted south over Easington on 7th, on which date a deep depression anchored over the eastern North Sea. It produced optimum seawatch conditions and the 8th proved to be excellent for large shearwaters: Filey logged two Cory's Shearwaters, with records also off Flamborough and Long Nab. More impressively, a Great Shearwater gave great views to the privileged, as it tracked north past Flamborough, Filey and Long Nab. A Sabine's Gull north at Filey next day was an appetising dessert for some, while a Cory's past Flamborough on 10th brought the spell to a close.

A Rose-coloured Starling tarried at Spurn from 12th, when another Sabine's Gull and a Great Shearwater were logged off Flamborough. A Pectoral Sandpiper at Skipton Sewage Works on 13th was the first of the autumn. High pressure edged into Scandinavia in the third week, allowing the first drift; Spurn immediately cashed in with both Icterine and Barred Warblers on 18th another Icterine the next day and a

Lesser Grey Shrike

Photo: Darren Chapman

Wryneck on 20th. A Flamborough seawatch in north-westerlies proved worthwhile on 21st, with Great Shearwater, Sabine's Gull and three Red-necked Grebes; Spurn attracted both Icterine and Barred Warblers on the same day. A Wryneck at Sammy's Point followed on 22nd and a Red-backed Shrike made landfall at Tunstall on 23rd. An adult Lesser Yellowlegs entertained all comers at Tophill over five days from 25th and helped contribute to a good recent run of the species. A Cory's Shearwater flew south past Flamborough on 27th and the bay brambles there hosted an Icterine Warbler next day. High pressure again edged into Scandinavia at the month end with a resultant Wryneck unearthed at Swillington and a Greenish Warbler at Spurn on 31st. The latter site hosted increasing numbers of post-breeding Roseate Terns, which peaked at 15 on the last day of the month, while further up the coast a Black Guillemot flew past Barmston.

September

Light easterlies in the first week encouraged drift, but after a similar spell in the middle of the second week, the month was dominated by westerly airstreams. A warm day, the 2nd witnessed a Honey Buzzard over Wheldrake and a Red-backed Shrike appeared at Spurn; a birder hoping to relocate the latter triumphed with the discovery of a first-year Lesser Grey Shrike near the Point. South-easterlies picked up overnight, with Rose-coloured Starling, Red-backed Shrike and Wryneck at Spurn and a Greenish Warbler and confiding Ortolan Bunting at Filey on 3rd. Three Wrynecks at Spurn and another at Easington on 4th would soon be devalued, while Red-backed Shrikes appeared at Filey, Kilnsea and Spurn on the same day. Flamborough chipped in on 5th with a Red-backed Shrike and a Greenish Warbler, with another of the latter present next day, when a Honey Buzzard flew south at Atwick. A Buff-breasted Sandpiper was a quality 'vismig' identification on 7th, with a Pectoral Sandpiper nearby on Beacon Ponds and a Wryneck at Sammy's. Year listers again profited from a Blacktoft Spotted Crake from 8th, while a Pectoral Sandpiper on 'head pond' Flamborough next day proved that any pool, however small, is worth a look.

Icterine Warblers at Filey and Spurn on 9th were mere aperitifs of what was to follow; birders checking the weather that evening were heartened by a perfect pressure chart showing a high centred over southern Norway and a low anchored off the south-west. Moderate north-easterlies and associated drizzle ensured a classic; seawatch teams were rewarded with 160 Arctic Skuas (nowadays a good count) and a Cory's Shearwater past Flamborough and eight Long-tailed Skuas south past Filey, while wader buffs managed a Pectoral Sandpiper at North Cave. However, inevitably most attention on 10th focussed on passerines sheltering in coastal cover; Sammy's Point hosted a Red-

throated Pipit, four Wrynecks were at Spurn with others at Sammy's and Flamborough and two Red-breasted Flycatchers made landfall at Spurn, with another at Flamborough. However, a multi-arrival of Greenish Warblers stole the show with two at South Gare, singles at Flamborough and Kilnsea and another duo at Spurn. Things improved further on 11th with Flamborough producing two new Greenish Warblers, two Red-backed Shrikes, another Red-breasted Flycatcher, two Yellow-browed Warblers, a Grey-headed Wagtail, 44 Pied Flycatchers and no fewer than nine Wrynecks. The latter made for a memorable day at Spurn, with birds dropping out of the sky; a conservative 11 new individuals augmented four from the previous day. A Red-throated Pipit sheltered in fields at Kilnsea, while up the coast an additional Greenish Warbler fed in cliff top bushes at Ravenscar and nearby Scalby Beck held a Wryneck; presumably birders at Filey had forgotten their contact lenses! The spell ended the following day with another Greenish Warbler on Scarborough Castle, two Red-breasted Flycatchers at Flamborough, three Yellow-broweds at Spurn, two Barred Warblers at both Spurn and Flamborough and Wrynecks in Hull and Filey. Old Moor pulled in a Pectoral Sandpiper on 15th, when Wrynecks were at Easington and inland at Woodmansey.

The northerly airflow displaced large numbers of seabirds into the North Sea, as evidenced on 16th when a strong north-westerly sprung up; the largest ever movement of Sooty Shearwaters included counts of 1415 north at Scarborough, 1520 at Spurn and 2721 north at Flamborough. Accompanying these were impressive numbers of Leach's Petrels, with the Holderness coast again best for the species: 33 flew north at Spurn, 12 at Mappleton, six at Flamborough and two at Filey. In addition, three Black-throated Divers flew north past Scarborough, while a Grey Phalarope entered the Spurn log. The 17th provided three typical September records, with a Pectoral Sandpiper at Lingham Lake, a Honey Buzzard over Bishop Middleton and a long-staying Spotted Crake at Old Moor. South-westerlies dominated the second half and the quality birding drew to a shuddering halt.

A Pectoral Sandpiper added to the burgeoning reputation of Nosterfield on 24th when 1000 Little Gulls moved past Flamborough. However, most attention focussed on Spurn, with the discovery of a second-year Lesser Grey Shrike. Thankfully unlike the earlier first-year, this bird remained for eight days, until last seen chased by a Kestrel. The last notable bird did manage to get away, but unfortunately on this occasion, from the local birders; a Lesser Yellowlegs posed splendidly at Filey Dams on 28th, but was only identified from frame-filling digital photographs of the 'Wood Sandpiper' – by then the bird had flown to seek a more appreciative audience!

October

Westerlies featured early on, before spells of easterly winds at the end of the first and second weeks. Otherwise the month was characterised by mild westerlies; indeed October 2005 was the warmest since records began. A Spotted Crake opened the month at Rodley NR and remained for five days. Three Grey Phalaropes flew north past Flamborough on 2nd with one similarly passing Long Nab the following day. High pressure held sway over the North Sea on 4th allowing single Yellow-broweds to make landfall at Hawsker, Flamborough and Spurn. Immigration gathered pace next day with a Wryneck at Filey, a Richard's Pipit at Spurn and the Yellow-browed tally included three at Filey, six at Flamborough, five at Spurn, with others at Easington and Kilnsea. Unrelated to immediate weather systems, the discovery on 6th of the county's first long-staying Laughing Gull for years, triggered one of 2005's major twitches. A second-winter, it flitted between its original site of Wintersett and disparate areas within West Yorkshire for over a month.

The high developed further by 6th, expanding its range through the Baltic and opening a perfect corridor; 19 Yellow-browed Warblers appeared at Spurn, while an incredible 28 made landfall at Flamborough between 7th-10th. A Richard's Pipit arrived at Flamborough on 7th with a Dusky Warbler at Spurn. A Radde's Warbler at Sammy's Point allowed good comparisons with the latter species the following day, while a Wryneck and two Richard's Pipits were new at Flamborough, as was a Red-backed Shrike at Easington. A Red-breasted Flycatcher jostled for position with ever more Yellow-browed Warblers at Flamborough on 9th, while from the opposite side of the world a Buff-breasted Sandpiper appeared at Kilnsea. Inland Yellow-broweds are always prized by local patch birders, so individuals at Scammonden on 11th and one at New Swillington next day were much appreciated. However, not everyone was 'kicking bushes' as evidenced by 3,150 Gannets and 10 Long-tailed Skuas past Flamborough on 13th. High pressure again edged into Scandinavia late on 14th and the following day was keenly anticipated by coastal birders; it did not disappoint. Yellow-browed Warblers appeared in unprecedented numbers, with 8 new birds in at Filey, while tallies of 15 at Flamborough, 13 in the Whitby area and 10 at Holmpton were a further indication of an amazing coastal influx. Both Little and Rustic Buntings were unearthed at Spurn, where two Great Grey Shrikes, a Red-breasted Flycatcher and two Richard's Pipits were logged. Elsewhere, two more Richard's Pipits were on Flamborough, along with two Pallas's Warblers, while up the coast Filey hosted a Red-breasted Flycatcher. However, the real spectacle lay in the vast numbers of commoner passerines: 6,500 Brambling made landfall at Flamborough,

with 1000 at Spurn; 27,000 and 25,000 Redwing at Flamborough and Spurn respectively; 32 and 46 Ring Ouzels in the Flamborough and Spurn/Easington areas; 9,500 Goldcrests at Flamborough. Indeed it was the arrival of the latter species which remains in the memory of many privileged to be on the coast; flocks of Goldcrests streamed along coastal hedgerows to disappear inland.

Birders sifting through the masses on 16th were rewarded with: Pallas's Warblers at Scarborough, Filey and Spurn; another Little Bunting and Great Grey Shrike at Spurn; a minimum of 16 Yellow-browed Warblers in the Easington/Kilnsea area and, best of all, a Radde's Warbler at South Gare. The following day witnessed a Pallas's Warbler at Cloughton and two more at Flamborough, while South Gare scored again with a creditable Marsh Warbler. Although a Great Grey Shrike was a new arrival at Spurn on 18th most attention that day centred on two 'northern' Long-tailed Tits; both eventually settled to winter around Easington, although they proved frustratingly elusive at times. A Dusky Warbler at Boulby Cliffs on 19th drew a classic few days birding to a close. Twelve Jack Snipe at North Duffield Carrs on 21st indicated how many birds had 'influxed' the UK but headed straight inland.

Waders headlined on 23rd, with a Pectoral Sandpiper at Tophill, a Grey Phalarope at Wintersett and, best of all, a Spotted Sandpiper at Easington Lagoons; also on the coast, 251 Little Auks moved past Flamborough on 23rd, with 246 off Spurn next day. With the Norfolk population of Pink-footed Geese ever increasing, it is no surprise that numbers passing over Yorkshire continue to grow; witness 1,370, 3,120 and 3,300 south over Spurn, Flamborough and Filey respectively on 26th. A Great Grey Shrike terrorised local passerines at Easington on 27th, while the following day produced a Grey Phalarope at Hellifield Flash, a Pallas's Warbler at Flamborough and five Shore Larks in off at Spurn. A Red-necked Grebe took up residence on Hornsea Mere on the last day of the month and stayed into December.

November

Mild south-westerlies until mid-month forestalled hopes of continued large-scale immigration from the east. The latter half of November then featured a run of cold north-westerly winds and significant frosts. A Pallas's Warbler at Flamborough on 1st ushered in the month, with a Serin at Blacktoft on 4th another typical early November migrant. However, the headlines on the latter date fell to Spurn, where clairvoyant locals awaited a Chimney Swift; crystal balls worked well and it duly flew south, posed for photos at the Point and then vanished across the Humber. Moderate south-westerlies on 5th encouraged a southerly movement of Pink-footed Geese with 6,150 over Spurn, 3,270 over Filey and 4,837 passing Flamborough. A Grey Phalarope flew south past Long Nab the following day, Easington hosted a Serin and a juvenile Red-necked Grebe joined the adult on Hornsea Mere. Grey Phalaropes continued to feature with one north past Spurn on 9th and singles at North Bay, Scarborough and off Filey Brigg from 12th. Another flew south past Spurn on 13th and a single at Flamborough and two at Spurn flew north on 17th. The mini-influx ended with three sheltering in Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 23rd.

In light of the relatively mild southerly airstream, another Serin at Spurn on 12th was not unexpected, although there was a distinctly northern feel to the birding on 13th; Filey recorded three Great Northern Divers, while Spurn attracted a Hooded Crow. Best of all, however, was the discovery of a drake Lesser Scaup at Hornsea Mere, which then remained into the New Year. A Great Grey Shrike at Hickson's Pool, Castleford on 24th diverted attention away from the coast, albeit briefly. Several late Long-tailed Skuas featured down the entire east coast, with Yorkshire's last heading south past Filey on 26th. A female Ring-necked Duck appeared at New Swillington on 27th and, like the Lesser Scaup at Hornsea, remained to overwinter. South Gare provided a late surprise with a male Desert Wheatear there briefly on 29th; the arrival of nine Scaup on Hornsea Mere the following day, enabled great comparisons with their smaller relation.

December

The month began with depressions tracking the country bringing mild temperatures. However, winds switched in the last week, with temperatures below freezing and widespread snow in coastal areas. Astley Lake provided an unusual inland winter record of a Grey Phalarope on 2nd; while Hornsea Mere continued to be the focus of attention, with Black-throated Diver and Black-necked Grebe joining an agglomeration of good birds present on 4th. A Storm Petrel north past Spurn on 6th was an unusual winter record. Filey unearthed December's highlight the next day, with the discovery of a Hume's Warbler in Church Ravine on 7th. It looked set to over-winter, before a heavy snowfall immediately prior to the New Year moved it on, or worse. Flamborough logged a Black-throated Diver on 15th, when a Slavonian Grebe was discovered on Hornsea Mere. Filey chipped in with a Grey Phalarope the following day, but a Black-necked Grebe at Flamborough on 18th was much more unusual. A Black-throated Diver was off Barmston on Christmas Eve, while a more obliging Great Northern looked set to winter in Filey Bay.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 2005

All rare and unusual species in this Report have been considered by the Reports Committee of the **YNU** and found to be acceptable on the evidence supplied by the observers. Records that require national verification have been submitted and accepted by the *British Birds Rarities Committee* (**BBRC**). The sequence and nomenclature used is that of the BOU *The British List* (seventh edition, 2007). It incorporates all the changes to the British List up to 1 April 2006. Proposed international English names have been used by the BOU since 1992, but as yet there is no agreement. In response to many requests to use names in common usage, we have used the *"British Birds"* list of names, but even this does not fully comply with requests. The editor has compromised and removed some of the unecessary first names – "Common" (i.e. before Kestrel), "European" (i.e. before Nightjar) and "Eurasian" (i.e. before Nuthatch), retained others in brackets and adopted some in full e.g. Northern Wheatear.

BOURC Category definitions as used in the Systematic List.

A Species that have been recorded in an apparently natural state at least once since 1 January 1950.

B Species that were recorded in an apparently natural state at least once between 1 January 1800 and 31 December 1949, but have not been recorded subsequently, (not in this report).

C Species that, although introduced, now derive from the resulting self-sustaining populations.

C1 *Naturalised introduced species* – species that have occurred only because of introduction, e.g. Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus* (must breed or be proven wanderers to the county)

C2 *Naturalised established species* - species with established populations resulting from introduction by Man, but which also occur in an apparently natural state, e.g. Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

C3 *Naturalised re-established species* - species with populations successfully re-established by Man in areas of former occurrence, e.g. Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

C4 *Naturalised feral species* - domesticated species with populations established in the wild, e.g. Rock Pigeon (Dove)/Feral Pigeon *Columba livia.*

C5 *Vagrant naturalised species* - species from established naturalized populations abroad, e.g. possibly some Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* occurring in Britain. There are currently no species in category C5.

C6 *Former naturalised species* – species formerly placed in C1 whose naturalised populations are either no longer self-sustaining or are considered extinct, e.g. Lady Amherst's Pheasant *Chrysolophus amherstiae*. There are no Yorkshire species in this category.

D Species that would otherwise appear in Category A except that there is reasonable doubt that they have ever occurred in a natural state. Species placed in Category D only form no part of the British List, and are not included in the species totals. (See separate section in this Report).

E Species that have been recorded as introductions, human-assisted transportees or escapees from captivity, and whose breeding populations (if any) are thought not to be self-sustaining. Species in Category E that have bred in the wild in Britain are designated as E*. Category E species form no part of the British List (unless already included within Categories A, B or C). (See separate section in this Report).

The British List comprises only those species in Categories A, B and C.
The Yorkshire List comprises species in categories A, B and C, but the rules for including Category C species must be applicable to Yorkshire.

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE REPORT

AON	Apparently Occupied Nests
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey
BOG	Bradford Ornithological Group
BPNR	Beacon Ponds Nature Reserve
CP	Country Park
GC	Golf Course
GP	Gravel Pit
HN	Harrogate Naturalists
LDNNR	Lower Derwent National Nature Reserve
NR	Nature Reserve
PHENR	Pulfin and High Eske Nature Reserve
RBBP	Rare Bird Breeding Panel
Res	Reservoir(s)

RVCP	Rother Valley Country Park
SF	Sewage Farm
TLNR	Tophill Low Nature Reserve
YDUBSA	Yorkshire Dales Upland Bird Study Area

Little Ringed Plover Photo: Keith Pickering

SPECIES TOTALS in the name line refer to the number of records reported over the last four years, including the current year.

PREVIOUS RECORDS referred to in the status line in this report refer to the number of previous records, not including the current year, accepted by the **YNU**. If the species is or was under the jurisdiction of **BBRC**, the totals only include records accepted and published by that body. Birds seen at more than one location in the same year and considered to refer to probably the same individual(s) are regarded as a single record. Birds seen at more than one location in the same year but considered to refer to possibly the same individual(s) are regarded as separate records. In a limited number of occasions, a record may consist of more than one individual (e.g. parties of Bee-eaters Merops *apiaster* and some waders).

SPECIES STATUS

A preliminary statement indicates the status of each species in Yorkshire as included within five Watsonian vice-counties.

Vagrant	Up to 10 records in total since records began
Rare	0-10 individuals each year in the past 10 years
Scarce	11-100 individuals each year in the past 10 years
Uncommon	101-1000 individuals each year in the past 10 years
Fairly common	More than 1000 records per year
Common	More than 10000 records per year
Abundant	More than 50000 records per year

CONSERVATION STATUS

Status on the list of birds of conservation concern 2002-2007 from the RSPB's review The Population Status of Birds in the UK is noted.
Red list = high conservation concern: declining UK population or globally threatened
Amber list = medium conservation concern.

UK BAP SPECIES

In 1995, 26 bird species were identified as being deserving of the highest priority within the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP), because of either threat on a global scale or population declines of 50% or more in the UK in the preceding 25 years. All but one are UK breeding species, the exception being Aquatic Warbler. The UK BAP species are tagged as such in the Systematic List.

BREEDING BIRD SURVEY FIGURES

In 2005, 166 squares widely distributed 1 x 1 km. squares were surveyed in Yorkshire and Humberside for the Breeding Bird Survey, 92 in North Yorkshire, 22 in South Yorkshire, 20 in West Yorkshire and 32 in East Yorkshire/Humberside. Although the latter area includes some North Lincolnshire squares, the total number of squares in the region where the species was recorded is noted on the status line to give some indication of its distribution.
Additional information on the maximum counts from each square has been used to comment on individual species in the first few lines of text. The number of squares surveyed is quite low in some regions, so any conclusions drawn from this data are tentative at best. However, population trends for species occurring in more than 30 squares can be derived with greater confidence. For the qualifying species in Yorkshire and Humberside from the BBS Survey for 1994-2005 and 2004-2005, the trends are given (with comparable figures for England in brackets in each case).

WeBS STATUS

Data were supplied by the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS), a joint scheme of the British Trust for Ornithology, The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Joint Nature Conservation Committee (the last on behalf of the Countryside Council for Wales, the Environment and Heritage Service, Natural England and Scottish Natural Heritage). Although WeBS data are presented within this report, in some cases the figures may not have been fully checked and validated. Therefore, for any detailed analyses of WeBS data, enquiries should be directed to the WeBS team at the British Trust for Ornithology, The Nunnery, Thetford, IP24 2PU (webs@bto.org).
Threshold figures: international and GB threshold figures given represent 1% of the relevant total population. The Ramsar Convention has established that a wetland should be considered internationally important if it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or sub-species of waterbird.

Laughing Gull — Photo: Tony Collinson

SYSTEMATIC LIST

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor* AC2

Amber list: uncommon resident breeder and winter visitor in all VC's. BBS 8/166
WeBS Status - Int. threshold 380: GB threshold 375

The breeding population appears to be stable or increasing slightly. Local movements for moulting occur, but are poorly understood.

WeBS counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Hornsea Mere	39	46	18	31	64	148	418	462	311	112	96	49
Tophill Low	81	35	44	17	26	29	36	31	41	23	23	87

VC 61 Bred at Tophill Low, Hornsea Mere, PHENR, Pickering and East Parks in Hull, Saltmarshe Delph, Welton Water, Brough Airfield Marsh and North Cave Wetlands.
VC 62 Breeding pairs were recorded at Hackness Lake, Seamer Road Mere, Star Carr, and Wykeham Lakes. The largest gathering was of 36 at Seamer Road Mere on 9th March. Maximum counts on South Tees were 16 in September and October.
VC 63 Breeds at a number of locations within the VC. Highest count was 39 at Beal Carrs on 29th October. A record nine pairs were present during the breeding season in the Wintersett area but only three pairs hatched 13 young of which only two fledged. Single pairs bred successfully at Pugneys CP and Rodley NR and seven pairs hatched 26 young at Swillington Ings. The largest gatherings at Fairburn Ings RSPB were 168 in February, *c.* 200 in June, 290 in July and 250 in August.
VC 64 10 pairs bred in the Bradford area with at least 31 fledged young. Breeding was reported from 11 sites in the Harrogate area with at least 44 young: 32 were known to have fledged successfully but some broods completely failed by the year end. Numbers were generally average at Staveley NR with 14 in January, 11 in September and 16 in October. Other counts included 28 at Hay-a-Park on 16th January and 20 at Otley on 29th. Two adults and 10 juveniles at Farnham GP on 19th April but were seen off by the resident male, however seven immature were present on 15th and 22nd May and nine juveniles flew over on 2nd July. (JCW) Three adults and seven juveniles were at Snaygill Ings on 9th. A bird ringed at Bellflask Quarry on 5th February 1998, was killed against overhead electricity cables at Seal Sands, Teesmouth on 26th June (*per* EDRG).
VC 65 Present in low single figures at Nosterfield NR and Lingham GP with maximum counts of ten at the former 24th July and 12 at the later 17th July. Up to three were at Bolton on Swale GP in the winter. At Marfield one pair fledges three young. In the Nosterfield area, on the reserve one pair with two cygnets that died by the year end and at Lingham four cygnets died also by the year's end.

BEWICK'S (TUNDRA) SWAN *Cygnus columbianus* A

Amber list: scarce migrant and winter visitor Oct – March in declining numbers

The Eurasian race *bewickii* breeds in the tundra of the Russian high Arctic and winters in the Netherlands and in increasing numbers at just a few favoured sites in Britain. Recently becoming increasingly scarce in the county, possibly due to a lack of cold weather movements of continental winterers, and increasing concentrations of birds at feeding reserves elsewhere in the country.
VC 61 Five flew south over Filey Dams on 1st January and one was at Hornsea Mere on 12th February. At Spurn, one flew south over the sea with 13 Whooper Swans on 26th October, eight flew south on 2nd November and another six flew south on 4th. Inland, four flew south over North Duffield Carrs on 2nd November and an adult was present in the Whooper Swan herd on 11th December.
VC 63 Two at Potteric Carr on 1st February was the only early record. Eight were on Thorne Moors NNR 14th October; two at Beal Carrs with Mute Swans on 30th October; five at Ringstone Edge on 24th November, two were on Leeshaw Res on 19th December and one at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB with eight Whooper Swans 30th.
VC 64 Sixteen flew north-west over Staveley NR on 22nd March and six south on 4th November. Two were at Bellflask Quarry on 15th December.
VC 65 Three adults arrived at Nosterfield NR at noon on 10th December and left at dusk.

WHOOPER SWAN *Cygnus cygnus* A E

Amber list: uncommon migrant and winter visitor Oct – April, in increasing numbers
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 210: GB threshold 57

Breeds from Iceland east across northern Eurasia, with Britain's wintering population consisting mostly of Icelandic birds, but some Fennoscandian birds have been recorded in eastern England. A small herd winters in the Lower Derwent valley, but over 1000 now winter on the Ouse Washes and some of these migrate through the county, which no doubt contributes to the increasing numbers being reported.

Peak counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Duffield Carrs	88	65	102	21	0	0	0	0	4	12	73	73

VC 61 In January, up to eleven birds were noted at North Cave Wetlands, five at Tophill Low, two at PHENR and up to 13 at Hornsea Mere, with one at BPNR and two north at Aldbrough. Also seen at Hornsea Mere occasionally to 3rd April, with the usual resident bird present throughout. The wintering herd in the Derwent Valley peaked at 102 birds on 8th March. Returning migrants included 129 at Cherry Cob Sands and four at Spurn on 14th March, 22 at Barmston on 15th, 23 over Tophill and 117 north at Elvington on 20th, eight at Welton on 21st, 10 at Hornsea Mere on 23rd, and in April, 31 over Driffield and 29 over Leven Canal on 2nd and two at PHENR on 17th. Also in April a single bird was on Allerthorpe Old Pit from 22nd to 30th, while in May one flew over Brandesburton on 6th May. The first four of the autumn were seen on North Duffield Carrs on 30th September, with possibly the same four at Pocklington and North Cave Wetlands on 5th October, remaining at the latter site to 22nd. The main southerly passage commenced on 25th October, with totals of 164 counted flying south between 26th October on 28th November at Filey, 119 south between 25th October and 17th November at Flamborough, and 316 at Spurn during the same period. Birds were also noted at Aldbrough, Atwick, Easington Long Bank, Holmpton, Hornsea, North Cave and Skipsea during this period. Nine were on Hornsea Mere on 31st October and 19 on 6th November. In December, a few late birds were noted at Spurn, PHENR and Flamborough. The returning wintering herd at North Duffield Carrs consisted of 65 birds at the year-end and five were caught and colour-ringed.

VC 62 A small wintering herd at Binnington Carr increased from five in early January to eight on 22nd of that month. 15 were on fields 3/4 mile southwest of Kirkby Fleetham between 19th and 26th February, and 14 at Stapleton on 22nd March. A single was at Wykeham Lakes from 2nd to 27th February and another at Scampston Park Lake on 16th April. In autumn six flew over Askam Bog on 6th October, two were near Kirkby Fleetham on 22nd October, with two at Ryburn Res on 25th. On the coast, six flew over Saltwick Nab on 26th, 47 were on the sea off Redcar on 29th and a herd of 18 flew south past Long Nab and the Castle Headland on 30th October. In November, seven were at Scaling Dam Res on 5th and 16 on 10th, with two there on 11th, while 26 flew south along the coast on 6th. Eight were feeding in fields near Ganton on 16th November.

VC 63 north At Swillington Ings five, two adults and three juveniles were seen regularly between 5th February and 27th March, with a site record of 70 flying over on 3rd April followed by 30 on 15th. One was on the main Lake at Pugneys CP on 14th January , 27 flew north-west on 7th February, 41 flew north-west on 21st March, with three on the main lake on 31st. Small numbers were seen on various dates at Fairburn Ings RSPB with ten the peak count in January and 33 on 21st March. At Wintersett a movement in March produced nine on 18th, six on 19th, and 27 on 21st, followed by two on 3rd April and 24 on 19th. The first birds to return were five that flew south over Wintersett and 12 at Fairburn Ings RSPB on 2nd October, followed by seven adults at Swillington Ings on 14th. Four birds were noted at Ringstone Edge Res on 13th and 27th October and 14 were at Fairburn Ings RSPB 13th, with up to five noted on various dates at Swillington during October and November. During November Wintersett had six on 8th and eight on 12th; one was at Pugneys CP on 5th with three on 16th. Nine was the highest count for November at Fairburn Ings RSPB with six in December, two flew west at Northowram on 10th November with four at Wainstall on 14th. Finally two flew over Pugneys CP on 18th December. **VC 63 south:** Recorded at several locations within the VC. First were c.30 near Beal Carrs, feeding on sugar beet tops, on 11th January. Birds at this site most probably inter-change with birds from the Lower Derwent Valley (VC 61 above) and it seems likely these two sites together host most of the County's inland wintering birds. Beal Carrs had a peak spring roost count of 51 on 18th February and 17th March. Elsewhere there were spring records, mostly in single figures at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB, Goldthorpe, Auckley Common, Baitings Res, South Anston and Strines Res though a northerly passage at Blacktoft Sands RSPB in March had flocks of 57 on 15th, 62 on 20th and 114 on the 21st. Five at Redmires Res on 2nd October were the first autumn birds. Fourteen headed west from Old Moor Wetlands RSPB on 23rd October and 19 passed Rod Moor westwards on 30th October. Single figure records also made at the sites mentioned above and Doncaster Lakeside and Southfield Res. The Beal Carrs roost held 31 on 19th December.

VC 64 Recorded occasionally in the early months with a maximum of eight at Gouthwaite Res on 24th January and seven on 19th March. Four adult and four juveniles flew over Farnham GP on 6th February with seven adults and four juveniles on Ripon Racecourse on 18th March. Spring movements began with 16 at Lindley Wood Res on 4th March, 32 at Swinsty Res on 21st when 56 were at Ripon Racecourse, with 35 over Harrogate and 27 over Melmerby. Twenty-eight were at Thruscross Res on 22nd and 40 over Fishergreen, Ripon on 29th March; 17 flew north at Barden Scale and 33 at Grimwith Res on 5th April with 23 at Gouthwaite Res on 21st being the last. First returning birds were one over Staveley NR on 18th October; six south at Bellflask Quarry on 4th November with four over Staveley NR on 5th and six at Snaygill SW on 13th. Three flew south-east at Farnham GP on 10th December. Three birds at Ripon Racecourse on 21st March had been colour ringed in Northern Ireland in 2003.

VC 65 Fourteen flew north over High Batts NR on 22nd March. At Cleasby GP 2 adults were present on 22nd and 23rd March with a party of 14 were in the area on 22nd March. In autumn, five adults were at Marfield NR on 18th October, with two adults present at Cleasby GP on 29th October. Four flew over Lingham on the 25th November with the last two in a blizzard at Nosterfield NR on 27th December.

BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabalis* **A** 19,6,54,52,21
Amber list: scarce and irregular winter visitor and passage migrant

Breeds across the northern Palearctic, where divided into a number of subspecies, two of which occur in the county. The form *rossicus* is the more common, occurring in small parties in some winters.

BEAN GOOSE *sp.* *Anser fabalis sp*
VC 62 Eight were present at Wykeham Lakes on 6th and 11th February, with two present on 2nd April (RHA: PW). Four flew north at Jackson's Bay on 30th March (MF).

TAIGA BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabalis fabalis* **A**
Although a few were reported, none were satisfactorily described. The bill pattern needs to be described in detail.

TUNDRA BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabalis rossicus* **A**
VC 62 Eight were present at Wykeham Lakes on 2nd January (NWA), with four there on 11th February and 2nd April, with one on 3rd (RHA: PW).
VC 63 A bird remained in the Leeshaw Res area from 9th January to 2nd April (*per* www.grayimages.co.uk).

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus* **A**
Amber list: fairly common migrant and winter visitor Sept - March. BBS 1/166
WeBS Status - Int. threshold 2400: GB threshold 2400

This species breeds in east Greenland and central Iceland and winters in Britain, and a population also breeds in Svalbard, mostly wintering in the Low Countries. Wintering numbers have been increasing in Britain for the past 25 years, and more passage birds are being seen in Yorkshire on migration to wintering grounds in south Lincolnshire and Norfolk, with the population on the Humber also increasing to between 5500 to 6500 birds this year, although these only occasionally visit the north bank to feed.
VC 61 The year began with some movement on 1st, when 950 flew north at Filey, c.500 flew north-west over North Cave Wetlands, 150 over LDNNR and 40 passed Flamborough. 220 passed over North Duffield Carrs on 30th January and three skeins totaling 599 passed over LDNNR on 3rd February and 845 on 4th, with 437 on 7th. At NCW, 165 flew north-west on 4th February and 150 flew north-west on 28th February. 310 flew north at Filey on 13th April and 270 flew north at Flamborough on 13th March. A total of 3972 flew north during the first winter period at Spurn, giving high counts of 310 on 30th January; 460 on 4th February; 1670 on 13th, 820 on 14th, 247 on 18th, and 250 on 19th March. The last record was of 63 flying north offshore on 3rd May, also seen at Filey, with the last in LDNNR on 5th May, but one accompanied by Greylags was at Allerthorpe Old Pits on 12th June.
The first returning birds at Spurn were early again, when 102 flew south on 8th September. Between this date and 15th November, a total of 23,700 flew south. Four-figure counts were recorded on six dates: 1574 on 1st October; 2450 on 20th; 1370 on 26th; 3010 on 1st November; 6510 on 5th, and 3260 on 9th. At Filey, 606 bird/days were recorded in September, 5580 bird/days in October including 3300 south on 26th October, and 4392 bird/days in November including 3270 south on 5th. At Flamborough, peak counts were of 574 on 24th, 3120 on 26th October and a record 4837 on 5th November, all south. Elsewhere, 37 flew south over LDNNR on 11th September, 250 flew south at NCW on 17th September, 560 south at North Duffield Carrs on 3rd October with a further 810 west in the month, 170 south at Lelley on 14th October and 728 were counted at Welwick/Skeffling on 6th November. 2000 of the wintering flock from the south Humber shore flew north over Welton to feed on the Wolds on 22nd October, with 1500 again north on 23rd.
VC 62 The Wykeham Lakes area held small numbers, maximum 17 birds, in the first part of the year. Larger skeins noted included 410 south over Scarborough South Bay on 4th February, 200 north-west over Copmanthorpe on 19th March, and the last were 63 on 3rd May. In autumn, skeins of 26 past Hummersea and Scaling Dam on 26th September. At least 2,730 passed south along the Scarborough coast from September to mid November, but more were counted further north passing over Cleveland with 1550 past Hummersea on 29th October and 1370 past the same site on 5th November, with presumably the same birds, estimated as 1200, flying south over Robin Hoods Bay that day. 410 passed over Scarborough on 29th October and 600 flew south at Sandsend on 9th November.
VC 63 north Return passage started early with birds moving west or north-west from 1st January, until 6th May. In January, 450 were at Cononley on 1st with 200 on 14th and 682 on 16th; 1506 flew west over Fairburn Ings RSPB, 1063 over Blackmoorfoot Res, 682 over Pugneys CP, 761 over Swillington Ings and at Wintersett 970 flew west with 110 heading south east. Smaller numbers were noted in February with counts of 860 at Swillington Ings, 40 at Pugneys CP, 460 at Wintersett and 705 over Fairburn Ings RSPB. March was a quiet month with 175 flying over Swillington Ings, 775 over Fairburn Ings RSPB and 40 over Wintersett. The last record for the spring was six at Fairburn Ings RSPB on 1st May. Autumn passage commenced early for inland sites with 40 at Fairburn Ings RSPB on 17th September and 60 heading east at Wintersett. During October, 100 were seen at Cononley on 4th and 259 headed east and 340 west at Swillington Ings, 321 west and 405 east at Wintersett, 90 south east at Pugneys CP, 504 north west at Blackmoorfoot Res

and 560 at Fairburn Ings RSPB. Passage continued into November with totals of 355 at Wintersett, 330 at Pugneys CP, 474 at Fairburn Ings RSPB and 180 at Blackmoorfoot Res. Fifty flew south west at Winterset and 305 were noted at Blackmoorfoot Res in December. **VC 63 south** 300 flew north west over Potteric Carr 9th January; 175 north west at Beal Carrs on 11th January and 625 west there on 4th February. Other skeins of 330 to 450 over Old Moor Wetlands RSPB also in January. Last in spring were 55 north at Beal Carrs on 27th February. Beal also had first returning birds with 65 east on 12th September. Highest total was 850 west over Old Moor RSPB on 20th December. Year's last were 75 heading north west, to the north of Beal Carrs on 27th December.
VC 64 There was a passage of birds in January and early February totalling 5100 in the Bradford area with peaks of 734 at Thornton Moor Res (VC 63) on 15th and 2070 the next day, comprising of various flocks. In January, 85 flew over Grassington on 9th and 65 on 14th. On February, 200 were at Burley and Addingham on 4th. In October, 200 were at Menston on 31st.
VC 65 On the 1st January 75 flew into Nosterfield NR from the north, with 110 west over Lingham Lake. Also on the 1st January a neck collared bird was present among the 75 at Nosterfield NR. This bird was ringed on 29 July 1998 at Hafurstadaheili, S-Ping in Iceland. It was seen at various sites between these dates, Lancashire (4 dates), Norfolk (3 dates), Perth and Kinross and Aberdeenshire one date each. There was a small group of eight birds feeding regularly with the Greylags, January to February and again April to October in the Nosterfield area. Also in January, 60 flew over High Batts NR on 3rd and on the 29th, 23 went north–west over Lingham and 45 north over Nosterfield NR on 30th. In February 97 flew over Lingham on the 3rd; in March, 600 went over Nosterfield NR and Lingham Lake at 1040 hrs on the 19th and in April, 58 flew south-east over Lingham on 24th. At the year end returning birds were began in September with 81 in three skeins on 24th over Nosterfield NR. In October, 16 were feeding at Nosterfield NR.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons* A
Amber list: scarce winter visitor and migrant

All records are assumed to be of the Russian breeding population *albifrons*, which winters in small numbers in southern England, unless stated otherwise, as the Greenland race *flavirostris* is an extremely rare bird in the county. Numbers of *albifrons* have been decreasing in recent years as milder winters are allowing them to winter further east.
VC 61 There were few reports, with three at North Duffield Carrs on 22nd February and one at Watton NR on 16th April the only records in the first winter period. An adult flew south close inshore at Spurn with a skein of Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus* on 1st November, and also in that month, two were seen at Flamborough on 9th and one on 17th.
VC 62 Two flew south at Scalby Manor on 13th October (MF).
VC 63 Three birds were present at Blacktoft Sands RSPB from 16th January until 10th February.
VC 64 A bird of the nominate race was at Staveley NR on 28th February.
VC 65 A bird of the Greenland Race *flavirostris* was at Lingham Lake on 29th January.

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser* AC2 C4
Amber list: fairly common feral breeder and winter visitor. BBS 48/166

At record levels nationally, the county's largely sedentary feral population is still expanding both in range in the north and overall size in the east. Six of the top ten sites of national importance are in the county, Nosterfield NR, LDNNR, Tophill Low NR, Eccup Res, Bolton-on-Swale GP and the Humber Estuary. Occasional migrants may occur.
VC 61 Bred at several sites. A survey conducted at 20 East Yorkshire sites during the flightless period of the last ten days of June found 2240 birds, up from 1960 in 2004, 1720 in 2003 and 1464 in 2002. Sites included Brandesburton ponds, Burton Constable Hall, Hornsea Mere (633 birds), Hull's parks including East Park (358 birds), North Cave Wetlands, Brough airfield marsh, High Eske and Whitton Sands (*c*.470 birds). Peak counts in other months included 578 on Whitton Sands in early June, 850 at Brough/Welton Water in August, 810 at Hornsea Mere in August, 850 at North Cave Wetlands in September and October, 360 at PHENR in September and 1400 at Tophill Low in 16th. One seen at Watton was from Nosterfield. In the LDNNR, the peak count was 1284 in December. A definite increase in records was noted at Spurn. Sightings were made on 40 dates throughout the year, although no sightings in July and August. All sightings were in single figures apart from 14 on 9th February and 16 on 14th October.
VC 62 The feral population is slightly increasing in the area. The largest counts were at Scaling Dam Res, where 560 were noted in October, a site record. Summer counts there included 446 in July and 467 in August. Breeding was confirmed from Scaling Dam (28 broods and 222 goslings), Throxenby Mere, Seamer Road Mere (two broods), Wykeham Lakes (two broods), and Burton Riggs. The peak count at Wykeham Lakes was 500 on 26th October.
VC 63 Highest count was 102 at Southfield Res (a site record) on 19th September. At Southfield seven pairs produced 35 young. Beal Carrs had 59 on 21st January with 50 regularly in December. At Thorpe Marsh at the start of the year there were up to 91 in January, on 22nd May, 51 young counted from 11 broods and 159 on 25th September was the peak count. Potteric Carr had 70 on 4th January and 55 on 19th September. This species has undergone a rapid expansion over the last few years especially in the Fairburn Ings RSPB

and Swillington Ings areas with a regular breeding population starting to establish itself. Small numbers of up to ten were noted at some sites in the Halifax area with breeding taking place at Fly Flatts where two broods were raised and at Cold Edge where a gander and two females reared two broods. Three pairs bred at Swillington Ings and two pairs nested at Wintersett. The biggest counts were at Fairburn Ings RSPB with counts of 114 in February, 250 in July and 600 in August with 103 at Swillington Ings on 19th October.

VC 64 At Grimwith Res there were 291 on 23rd June, and 15 pairs raised 66 young there. Bred at a further six sites in the BOG area, where seven pairs raised 42 young. Counts included 1000 at Staveley NR and 800 at Farnham GP in October. Counts in the Bradford area were lower, with 300 at Norwood Bottom on 11th January and 170 at Chelker Res on 16th.

VC 65 Regular and even common breeding bird on most upland moor land habit, with also many suitable lowland water bodies supporting breeding birds. Roundhill Res had 142 on 25th March.

Monthly Counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Marfield NR	n/c	n/c	167	189	170	11	300	n/c	350	n/c	n/c	n/c
Nosterfield NR	680	426	472	10	25	14	722	183	361	496	863	353
Lingham Lake	1146	438	55	35	115	100	745	1843	2100	2500	543	748
Bolton-on-Swale	162	27	65	102	123	474	636	620	774	n/c	n/c	n/c

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens* AC2

0,0,0,0,1

Feral breeder and vagrant

Breeds in Arctic North America, wintering along the Atlantic coast of U.S.A. Local feral populations make adjudication of genuine vagrants difficult, and most occurrences are dealt with in the Category E section of this report. Previous contenders for Yorkshire's first of wild origin include one at Blacktoft Sands with Pink-footed Geese *Anser brachyrhynchus* in February 1952, and one that passed over Potteric Carr and Sprotborough Flash, again with 130 Pinkfeet, on 1st January 1986. The occurrence below is regarded by the YNU Reports Committee to be acceptable as a wild bird.

VC 61 A first-winter bird that spent the winter of 2004/05 with Pink-feet in North Norfolk was regarded by many to be a good candidate as a wild bird. This bird was seen to leave Burnham Overy, Norfolk in a northerly direction in the morning of 3rd May. It was seen flying over Spurn Head at 0755hrs (GCT *et al.)* with a flock of 63 Pink-footed Geese and later seen from Grimston, Sewerby and then Filey at 0905 hrs (JS *et al.*), finally passing the Castle Headland, Scarborough at 09.25 hrs (NWA). Later that evening it was seen in Northumberland at St Mary's Island.

GREATER CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis* C2

Fairly common feral breeder, migrant and winter visitor. BBS 17/166
WeBS Status - Int. threshold 380: GB threshold 375

The introduced population is still expanding in the north of the county, and it is relatively numerous in West Yorkshire, where it is more widespread than Greylag Goose *Anser anser*. Fairburn Ings, Harewood Lake, Old Moor and LDNNR are the most important sites. Largely sedentary, some non-breeding or failed breeders from Yorkshire migrate to the Beauly Firth to moult.

VC 61 Breeds widely with a substantial population on Whitton Sands. In June, counts included 42 at East Park, Hull, 410 at Hornsea Mere and *c.*66 on Whitton Sands. Peak counts from other months included 410 at Hornsea Mere and 225 on Whitton Sands in August and 96 in Pearson Park, Hull in January. There were signs of genuine movement in early summer, with 25 south at Filey on 26th May and seven in off at Filey on 4th June with 79 noted at Flamborough also in June. An autumn flock often roosts on Filey Dams, with a peak there of 130 on 10th August.

VC 62 The highest counts were 149 on the South Tees in October, 107 at Scalby Lodge Pond in August, 98 at Scaling Dam in October and 97 at Scampston Park Lake in November, closely followed by 96 at Peasholm Park in January and 55 in Albert park, Middlesbrough in July.

VC 63 Common resident breeder, although scarcer towards the higher ground at Huddersfield and Halifax. Twelve pairs bred at Wintersett, with sixteen broods reared at Swillington Ings. The largest flocks seen were 175 throughout June at Gorple, Halifax, 166 at Fly Flatts on 8th July, 310 in January, 255 in November and 20 in December at Wintersett. Swillington Ings had counts of 233 in August, 324 in September and 410 in October (a site record) with 400 at Pugneys CP in September. Fairburn Ings RSPB had the largest counts with 463 in February, 514 in June, 413 in July and 386 in November. At Old Moor Wetlands RSPB 80+ young noted from 14 broods and a maximum of 450 on 24th September. A bird showing characteristics of one of the smaller races was present at Broomhill Flash from at least November 11th to the year end. Potteric Carr had a peak count of 170 on 20th September and 9 pairs raised 39 young.

VC 64 The only flocks of note were 670 at Nicholson Lagoon in January and 400 at Farnham GP in September. At least 20 pairs raised a minimum of 85 goslings in the Harrogate area with pairs breeding at 8 sites in the Bradford area. 300 were at Swinsty Res on 11th December.

VC 65

Monthly Counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Nosterfield NR	54	13	6	12	28	18	27	76	18	0	0	1
Lingham	186	119	99	30	25	35	75	139	250	226	125	79
Bolton-on-Swale	280	44	48	47	34	41	63	93	162	-	-	-
Semer Water	-	-	1	34	25	130	104	-	-	-	-	-

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis* AC2E

Amber list: uncommon migrant and winter visitor Oct-March. Occasional feral breeder

Breeds in east Greenland, Iceland, Svalbard, the Baltic and high arctic Russia, with wintering birds in eastern England from Svalbard and immigrants possibly from the continent of more eastern birds. Feral birds also occur and breed on the Humber, but likely escapes are treated separately at the end of this report.

VC 61 At Hornsea Mere, the first winter period flock maximum was 92, presumably of feral origin, were on Hornsea Mere in February, with nine present on 14th March and one to 17th June. Birds returned with 64 on 22nd August, peaking at 95 before the year-end. A small number bred on Whitton Sands and up to 90 wintered in the Broomfleet Island area. Six were seen at TLNR, Watton NR and PHENR in late September and October. On the coast in January, eleven flew north at Filey on 1st, one was on the beach at Ulrome on 23rd and one passed Flamborough Head on 30th. At Spurn, four were seen on 23rd January, and again on the Humber on 26th. A single flew south on 30th. Then on 3rd April, 13 flew south. A lone bird was with the Brent Goose *Branta bernicla* flock on 15th April and two flew south on 12th May, followed by two west on 21st. Only one record from Spurn in the autumn with one on 14th October.

VC 62 One was at Scaling Dam from 7th to 29th January and 11th to 19th April. In February a party of eight were at Wykeham Lakes on 6th, the next being one at Scampston Park Lake on 13th March. Seven were at Hunmanby on 25th September, and a party of six was in fields at Scalby Lodge 2nd to 4th October, with a single there 23rd/24th October.

VC 63 One was on Thornton Moor Res on 10th September and one over Denholme Clough on 25th September (possibly the same). Birds occurring on dates that could imply respectable origin were one at Blackmoorfoot Res from 21st to 29th November, 3rd and 5th to 6th December and one at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB on 14th December.

VC 64 One was at Hellifield Flash on 15th February.

VC 65 Several records of ones and twos in the Nosterfield area, with six on 4th September at Lingham and eight on 4th October at Nosterfield NR. Bolton-on-Swale had a small flock of 13 on 23rd January and seven on 21st August.

BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla* A

DARK-BELLIED BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla bernicla*

Amber list: uncommon migrant and winter visitor. Webs Status - Int. threshold 2200: GB threshold 981

Breeds in arctic Russia and winters on the southern North Sea coast, in declining numbers over the last decade although numbers of UK wintering birds increased this year. Only a relatively small percentage of the Humber population winters on the north bank, but with *Zostera* increasing in Spurn Bight, numbers are increasing, (peak counts in 2003 of 253 and 198 in 2004). Some birds may use the Humber as a staging post.

Peak counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Spurn Point	343	361	330	211	181	2	6	6	9	205	500	459

VC 61 At Filey, 11 were recorded in spring and 184 noted between 12th October and 4th December. At Flamborough, 286 were counted south between 17th September and 10th December, with peaks of 51 on 17th September and 123 on 15th October. One flew south at Ulrome on 20th March, eight south there on 23rd October, one passed Atwick on 30th October, and singles were on Hornsea Mere on 16th January and 1st December. At Spurn west to Easington, the wintering flock remained quite late this year and in larger numbers than usual, with 139 still being present until 19th May. A flock of 81 left east on 28th, leaving up to six birds remaining for the summer. Three south on 13th September were the first returning birds, but none arrived in reasonable numbers until mid-October. Small numbers of up to 20 birds were seen regularly in winter, feeding on the Humber inland to Paull, with 101 over Paull Holme Strays on 6th March and 48 there on 11th May. At North Cave Wetlands, an immature was present on 31st January, and again on 9th February. Two birds were seen in flight over the reserve on 23rd August.

VC 62 222 were reported from the Scarborough area, including one at Wykeham Lakes on 6th February, the first site record. On the coast, 13 were reported in spring between 24th January and 23rd March, and 208 in autumn between 15th October and 8th December.

VC 63 Two were at Blacktoft Sands on 13th February, one at Thrybergh CP 20th April and one at Edderthorpe Flash 28th June. Forty birds at Redlands Sand Quarry on 19th November was one of the largest flocks recorded inland, although they were not specifically identified to race. Singles were at the Park Lake at Wintersett Res on 2nd November and 12th December

PALE-BELLIED BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla hrota*

Amber list: scarce migrant and winter visitor

Breeds in Svalbard and northeast Greenland, wintering almost exclusively at Lindisfarne.
VC 61 At Filey, a single flew over the Dams on 1st January; a juvenile took up temporary residence in the bay corner from 29th January to 12th February; one in off on 5th April; seven north on 17th September; a single south on 29th October. Birds were present at Spurn in single figures almost throughout the year, including one which summered with the Dark-bellieds. The last one was seen on 23rd October and the highest count was nine on 10th February. Surprisingly there was no southerly offshore passage during the autumn at Spurn, but at Flamborough Head, 19 were counted between 10th September and 27th November. Two were seen at Paull Holme Strays on 23rd March.
VC 62 Seven flew north off Scalby Ness on 24th January, two north off Marine Drive on 11th September, and 21 north off Long Nab on 16th September. One was at Redcar on 13th March, and one flew south there on 1st November.
VC 65 One was at Marfield NR on 5th April with 100 Greylags. Presumably the same individual was at Lingham Lake on 9th and 10th April and back at Marfield on 12th April.

EGYPTIAN GOOSE *Alopochen aegyptiaca* C1E* 3,9,11,17,16

Rare visitor from feral populations elsewhere in country/local escape: has occasionally bred

A feral breeder in the UK since the 18th century, with the main concentration in Norfolk, and colonies also in the Netherlands and Belgium.
VC 61 One was at Hornsea Mere on 13th May, and it or another at Watton NR between 27th and 31st May.
VC 63 Two at Blacktoft Sands RSPB on the 13th February were the first reserve record. The birds then took up residence in fields near Reedness and remained until at least the middle of March. One flew north at Rother Valley CP on 12th March. A pair were discovered at Moorhouse lane Ponds Wintersett on 18th March, subsequently being seen at various locations nearby until 26th September with only one seen thereafter, the other possibly having been shot. The remaining bird remained in the area until 24th December. A single was at Thorpe Marsh on 20th March. At Swillington Ings one was seen feeding with the Canada Goose flock on 18th April and in July an adult was seen on five occasions from 21st remaining in the area until 17th August. Fairburn Ings RSPB also noted a single bird which may have been the same as the Swillington one, on 18th April, 13th to 22nd May, various dates throughout June, and from 9th to 12th September. One was on Wombwell Ings and one also at Broomhill Flash on 23rd of July, then presumably the same on Old Moor Wetlands RSPB almost daily from the 7th August until October 30th, with two seen on the 12th of August. Four flew west at Potteric Carr on 6th November (RJS).
VC 64 One was at Bellflask Quarry on 19th January and it or another at Otley Wetland 28th April.
VC 65 A single bird was at Cleasby GP on the 4th and 5th May.

COMMON SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna* A

Amber list: uncommon breeder and fairly common migrant and winter visitor. BBS 9/166
WeBS Status - Int. threshold 3000: GB threshold 782

GB WeBS counts were the lowest ever, (and Irish the highest), and BBS figures show a 10-year decline. However, the county's breeding population appears to be increasing, particularly in North Yorkshire. Although July and October counts were low, the peak Humber WeBS count in August of 3653 was more than 600 birds higher than the 2003 and 2004 peak counts, and of international importance. These may be mostly migrants from further west.

WeBS counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	1844	1525	1777	877	866	1147	1812	3653	3084	782	1722	1663
South Tees	35	197	70	3	109	171	109	18	26	45	38	0
LDNNR	36	59	66	91	62	19	3	0	0	0	3	31

VC 61 Broods were noted along the Humber, mostly in the upper estuary, with breeding also confirmed in the Derwent Valley (where only one pair successful from 56 pairs in the area) and North Cave Wetlands (one pair only). The largest congregations on the Humber were to be found in August from Paull to Spurn and in the Broomfleet/Whitton Sands area, when migrating birds use the Humber as a stop-over site, and juvenile birds are also present. Present for most of the year on the Humber at Spurn with the highest counts 1371 in August and 850 in November. Passage at Spurn included 393 east during July and early August, and between 18th

July and 9th December, 243 flew south and 82 came in. 57 present at North Cave Wetlands on 6th January was the highest site count of the year. At Filey, 34 north on 21st March, nine south on 10th July and seven north on 1st August.
VC 62 Counts on the Tees were significantly lower than 2004. Probably three pairs bred in the Scarborough district, with other occasional sightings in the area including some coastal records.
VC 63 Cononley had four on 8th January and 14th August, which included three juveniles, also seen on 20th and 27th. Numbers averaged around 20 at Fairburn Ings RSPB for the first seven months. In September 95 flew west with numbers declining to two in October, singles in November and a maximum of five in December. No breeding took place. Small numbers were seen regularly at Pugneys CP where two broods of young were raised. Birds were present every month at Swillington Ings with maximum counts of 34 in February, 40 in March and 36 in April. At least ten pairs were seen with broods of ducklings. Small numbers were seen on passage mainly from August to December at Wintersett Res and one pair looked as though they were on territory but no evidence emerged that they had actually bred. Two pairs bred at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB. At Blacktoft Sands a maximum of 152 in January and 12 pairs bred. Three were at Warley Moor Res on 13th April. Three were noted at Beal Carrs on 20th November and one there on 26th December. Breeding was reported at Potteric Carr.
VC 64 The only breeding records came from a pair at Flask Lake with four ducklings and two pairs at Bellflask Quarry rearing six ducklings each with a pair and eight young at Hellifield Flash on 18th May. Spring passage was noted at most of the major waters in the Harrogate area but was relatively light with counts at Nicholson's Lagoons, Ripon, of 12 on 22nd January, 13 on 23rd, 15 on 24th February, 21 on 11th and 12 on 25th March. A poor year in the Bradford area with Otley Wetland only producing a maximum of four on 22nd January. The only autumn record was of four at Lindley Wood Res on 17th October.
VC 65 Present in the Nosterfield area from the beginning of the year, with maximum counts as follows: at Nosterfield NR, 18 in January, 12 in March and 20 in May; at Lingham Lake, 20 in January, 11 in February 25 in April and 28 in May; at Marfield NR, 21 in March and 19 in May. At the year's end maxima in November were 10 at Marfield and 17 at Lingham Lake. Six pairs breed at Nosterfield NR with broods of 12, 11, 8, 8, 7 and 2. A single pair had two young at Lingham and pair at Flask's Lake had four young.

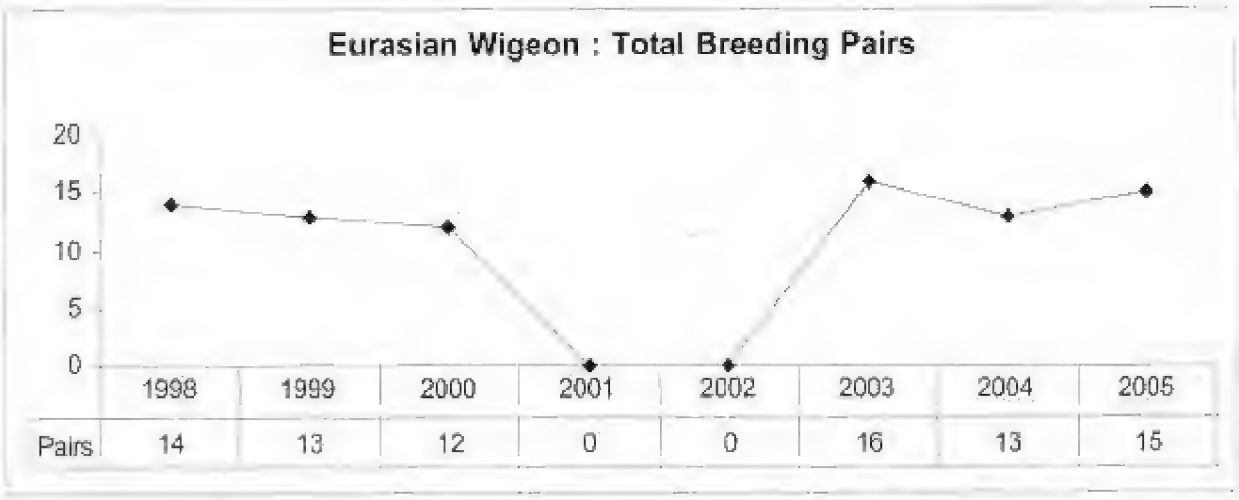
MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata* **C1E*** 67,116,111,117,135
Scarce feral breeder/local escape/visitor from populations elsewhere in country

Britain's largely sedentary feral population has increased. There is some evidence of seasonal migration in late March to May and October/November, but local introductions, especially at Harewood Park, may mostly account for the county's increasing feral population.
VC 61 A pair took up a brief residency in the south east corner of Hornsea Mere from 24th April to 4th May, raising hopes of them breeding here. Reports of the birds being from a local bird collection were found to be not the case. (RL: GCT). A drake was present at North Duffield Carrs on 29th September and 3rd October (CSR), with presumably the same at Bank Island on 4th December (RSS).
VC 62 Two were present at Burnsall on 3rd January. At Hackness Lake, birds were present from January to May, with a peak of 17 present on 19th February including 12 drakes, with two on 12th May, and birds returned in November. Two drakes were present on Wykeham Lakes on 16th May; a female was at Margrove Ponds on 28th June and a female at Scaling Dam Res on 28th August. On 10th July, a pair and four ducklings were seen at Mowthorpe, the first confirmed breeding in the VC.
VC 63 Most records this year came from the Halifax area where a number of pairs have bred in previous years. A pair was at Elland GP on 9th January with the male remaining until 6th March. A male was noted at High Royd Sewage Farm on 3rd March and another at Old Moor Wetlands on 14th June; two birds were at Ringstone Edge Res on 15th September; a female (first for the site) at Southfield Res 25th September; a female at Hebden Bridge on 4th October, and a drake was at Rother Valley CP on 13th October. Ten were at Ryburn Res. on 25th October and a male arrived at Swillington Ings on 23rd November remaining in the area until 13th December.
VC 64 Appears to be a difficult bird to monitor in the breeding season. A pair that bred at Beckwithshaw, a pair with young in the Barden Bridge area on 14th June with a second brood on 23 July and a juvenile there on 19th August the only evidence of breeding. Thirty-nine at Strid Wood on 1st January increasing to 41 on 17th was a record number. A male was at Glasshouses Dam on 21st January and one at Hay-a-Park from 12th March to 26th April and 28th May to 11th June. One was at High Royd SW on 3rd March. Numbers in spring varied from two to 23 birds in the Bolton Abbey - Howgill area of the River Wharfe. Six males frequented Beckwithshaw during April with a male and two females there at the end of April. A pair was flushed from maize stubble near Follifoot on 8th May, and also in May a pair was between Linton and Grassington for part of the month. It was scarcer at the end of the year with a male at Gouthwaite Res on 10th December and a maximum of seven at Strid Wood on 25th December.

(EURASIAN) **WIGEON** *Anas penelope* **A**
Amber list: rare breeder; common migrant and winter visitor. BBS 1/166
WeBS Status - Int. threshold 15000: GB threshold 4060

Breeds across northern Europe and Asia, wintering to the south. The county's small breeding population is probably stable, although three fewer pairs were noted in the YDUBSA compared to 2004. Nine pairs were

proven to breed in the county, with two others probably and four possibly breeding. There were no counts in 2001 or 2002.



Peak counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Bolton-on-Swale	700	339	194	82	0	0	0	0	32	n/c	n/c	n/c
Hornsea Mere	760	1140	785	16	4	12	24	71	16	620	315	415
Lingham Lake	370	880	413	90	0	2	0	1	4	59	59	164
LDNNR	8000	10215	8750	5100	17	15	5	9	250	1200	6400	15130
North Humber	2179	2119	1943	23	1	0	0	4	77	1626	448	1270
Nosterfield NR	1123	1095	847	150	7	1	4	1	70	559	778	894
Tophill Low	1729	736	871	28	8	0	3	1	203	249	755	197

VC 61 Ten males and four females summered in the LDNNR, with three possible breeding pairs, but no successful breeding took place. A pair was at North Cave Wetlands on 13th June. Winter counts from LDNNR have shown it to be of international importance with the largest concentrations between North Duffield Carrs and Thorganby Ings. At Routh Pits there were 610 on 16th January with 760 at PHENR on 18th February. Most numerous on the Humber in winter between Brough and Faxfleet, especially Broomfleet and Whitton Sands, where over 100 were present in January. A flock on the sea between Primrose Valley and Hunmanby Gap peaked at 85 on 12th March and then 170 on 22nd December. Coastal passage included 190 at Flamborough on 10th September and 608 on 18th October. At Spurn small numbers were regularly seen on the Humber in the first three months. Just 184 were counted moving south and 74 east between 16th January and 5th April. Autumn passage was better: the first flew south on 13th August, and up to early December a total of 6531 flew south, 488 came in, and 276 flew north.

VC 62 The wintering flock at Scalby Mills/Lodge Pond peaked at 622 in February and 700 in December. 127 was the highest count on South Tees in October, and 84 at Scaling Dam in October and November. Burton Riggs, Seamer Road Mere, and Wykeham Lakes occasionally attracted small numbers. Absent in the district between 22nd April and 21st August, the only exceptions being two drakes at Wykeham Lakes on the unusual date of 31st May, and single birds at Scaling Dam in July and August. Coastal movement was evident from August to mid November, the largest count 156 past Marine Drive on 19th October.

VC 63 north Regular wintering flocks occur at Wintersett. Fairburn Ings RSPB, Swillington Ings and Pugneys CP. The biggest numbers were at Wintersett Res with a new site record of 509 on 27th February. Numbers decreased with the last bird seen on 11th April. Birds returned from late August with a maximum of 361 in December. At Fairburn Ings RSPB numbers averaged 100 for the first four months with two birds summering. Numbers increased from late August with peak counts of 225 in October and 200 in December. Pugneys CP had flocks in excess of 200 from January until March with numbers building up from September reaching 203 in December. At Swillington Ings the highest counts were 437 in January, 360 in March, 281 in November and 330 in December with one bird summering. At 10 at Cononley Ings there were 110 on 30th October.

VC 63 south Recorded at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB in all months except May and June. Birds were recorded up to April 21st with the first returning birds noted on July 24th. The highest count of the year was 750 noted on the 13th November. At Thorpe Marsh over 100 were present in the winter months with peaks of 196 on 23rd January and 140 on 27th November. At Blacktoft Sands there were maxima of 1078 in February and 700 in December.

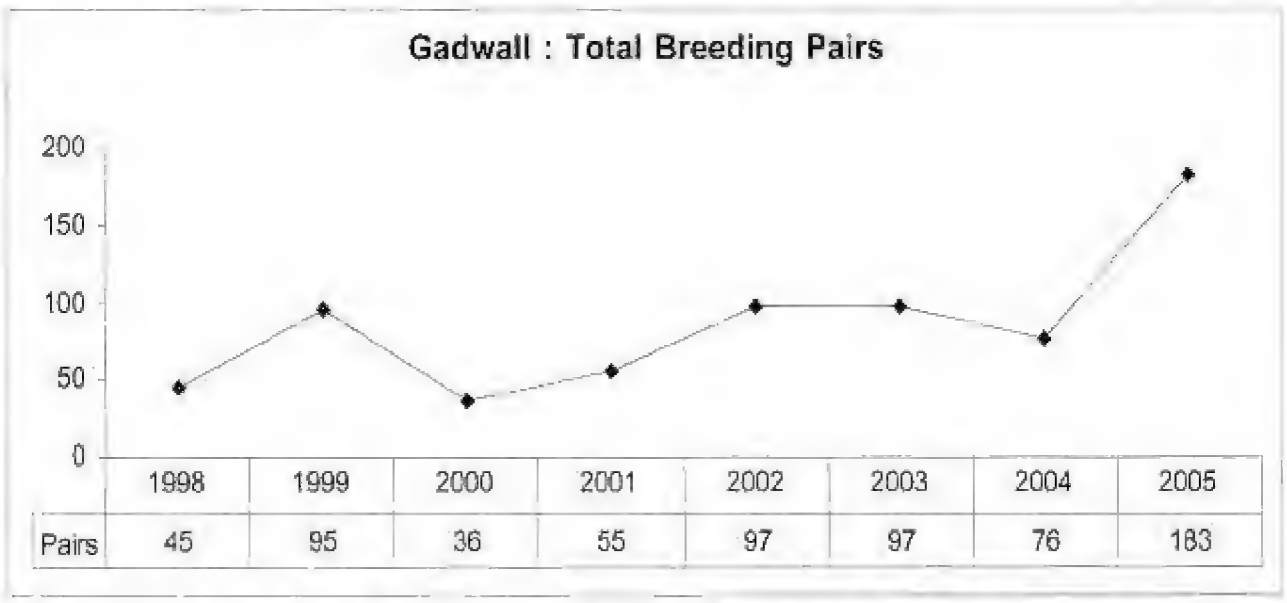
VC 64 Ten breeding pairs were located at three different sites in the county. At Grimwith Res there were a maximum of seven breeding pairs but only one female with chicks was noted, with a brood of three chicks on 23rd June. On Grassington Moor (adjacent to the Grimwith area) a pair was present on at least 24 the April. Winter counts included 1000 at Hellifield Flash on 4th January and Long Preston Floods on 13th, 80 at Knotford Nook on 15th with 368 at Hay-a-Park during the month, 377 in February and 250 in March. At Staveley NR there were 195 in February with 800 at Long Preston Flashes on 4th. Numbers increased towards the end of the year with 69 at Grimwith Res on 30th October, 123 at Lindley Wood Res on 5th

November, 150 at Farnham GP on 12th, 1010 at Hellifield Flash on 18th, with 205 at Hay-a-Park during the month and 211 in December. Grimwith Res recorded 136 on 26th December.
VC 65 Counts for Bolton-on-Swale, Lingham Lake and Nosterfield are tabulated. At Semer Water there was a maximum of 100+ at the beginning of the year, with 75 at the back end. At Roundhill Reservoir there were four pairs: two of these produced broods of two and one young. This was the first confirmed breeding in the Harrogate Nats. area. At Semer Water there were two males present on at least 15th May.

GADWALL *Anas strepera* AC

Amber list: uncommon resident breeder; winter visitor and passage migrant. BBS 0/166
WeBS Status - Int. threshold 600: GB threshold 171

The breeding population continues to increase in line with national trends, with 106-183 breeding pairs in the county (74 in 2004), and high productivity levels were noted this year.
Has been under-recorded in some previous years, with records missing from some key sites.



WeBS counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Fairburn Ings	176	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	400	292	-
Hornsea Mere	72	114	98	48	61	44	105	126	87	260	195	315
Swillington Ings	89	56	70	n/c	15	8	-	180	303	90	15	12
Wintersett	36	45	2	1	4	2	0	0	12	26	77	14

VC 61 Proven breeding occurred (with pairs in brackets) at North Cave Wetland (5) Barmston Drain (1+ 3y), Brough/Welton (4 +25y) Hornsea Mere (1+ 4 y), PHENR (1) and Tophill (1-4). Nineteen pairs were proven in the Lower Derwent Valley, with a further 40 probables and 15 possibles. High counts included 120 at Saltmarshe Delph and 47 at Welton Water in February, 94 at Tophill Low in March, and in November, 134 at Saltmarshe Delph, 41 at North Cave Wetlands, 32 at PHENR and 28 at Nafferton. Rarely encountered passing Filey Brigg, the sole records were of one south on 30th October and two south on 3rd December. This is an increasingly regular species at Spurn, however, where one or two were seen most months between January and December, with five south on 2nd May the highest count. A total of 23 flew south at Spurn in autumn.
VC 62 Bred at Scampston Park Lake, where a pair and four young were seen and 22 birds present in October. High counts included 61 at Coatham Marsh and 59 on the South Tees estuary in November. Present at Seamer Road Mere in both winter periods peaking at 18 on 20th February. Occasional visitors were seen at Skelton Castle, Boulby Pond, Scaling Dam, Middlesbrough, Wykeham and Scalby Lodge Pond. Four flew south at Long Nab on 6th November.
VC 63 north At Fairburn Ings 16 pairs were present in the breeding season but no details on breeding success were received. At least eight pairs bred at Swillington Ings with 61 young seen. One pair established themselves on the Low Lake, Wintersett Res, with five young subsequently seen, which was the first successful breeding in the area since 1980. Elsewhere this species is quite scarce with single figures noted at Pugneys CP in every month except June to August and November with the odd record at Blackmoorfoot Res and in the Halifax area. **VC 63 south** A resident breeder (five pairs) at Sprotborough Flash with 70 or more there in autumn. Present throughout the year at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB with a maximum count of 170 on the 13th December. A total of 36 pairs were present in early May, however breeding success was poor and only seven broods were successful, with 59 young hatched between the 19th June and 8th July. At Potteric Carr numbers have increased substantially and there was a peak count of 244 on 18th September. Thorpe Marsh held peak counts of 48 in March and 42 in December. Smaller numbers in the breeding season with one pair raising three young. Fifteen pairs reared 90 young in the Sheffield area and seven pairs bred at Blacktoft Sands RSPB.

VC 64 Bred at Farnham GP with two broods of eight. Numbers were greatest at the beginning and end of the year. Hay-a-Park held 44 in January, 38 in February and 29 in March, whilst Farnham GP held 32, 17 and 12 respectively. Eight were at Nicholson's Lagoon on 6th February. Elsewhere: between two and eight birds were seen at Knotford Nook in January and ones and twos in February and March. Two pairs were at Otley Wetland on 15th April with a single remaining to 1st May. Returning birds appeared at Otley Wetland on 4th September with 18 at Hay-a-Park and five at Farnham GP during the month. Fifteen were at Thorpe Underwood Lake on 19th October with 12 at Farnham GP on 25th and 16 at Hay-a-Park during the month. Numbers declined at Hay-a-Park in November to 16, 18 at Farnham GP on 12th and 12 were at Nicholson's Lagoon on 14th. Twenty-two remained at Farnham GP throughout December. Recorded in single figures at Bellflask Quarry, Copgrove Lake, Knotford Nook, Manningham and Spofforth SF.
VC 65 Present throughout the year in the Nosterfield area, with maximum counts of 26 at Nosterfield NR on 3rd August, 20 on 21st of that month at Flask's Lake and 19 from October to December at Lingham Lake. Occasional low single figures were at Bolton–on-Swale GP, and Cleasby GP. Three pairs breed at Nosterfield NR of which a brood of 11 fledged and two failed at the egg stage. Single broods of eight and five were at Lingham and Flask's Lakes respectively.

TEAL *Anas crecca* A

Amber list: rare breeder; fairly common migrant and winter visitor. BBS 1/166
WeBS Status - Int. threshold 4000: GB threshold 1920

Breeds from Iceland east to Siberia, with a small British population. Numbers wintering in the county can fluctuate annually quite dramatically, probably depending on weather conditions on the continent.

WeBS counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Fairburn Ings	140	129	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	185	324	300
Gouthwaite Res	468	125	109	-	-	-	-	-	147	150	713	623
Hornsea Mere	215	70	185	18	40	26	14	215	75	60	110	140
LDNNR	5430	6200	3270	300	210	120	120	300	1150	427	1312	2793
North Humber	1714	846	425	178	186	606	150	577	661	587	1033	1069
Nosterfield NR	306	75	58	25	2	15	16	34	59	n/c	n/c	n/c
Pugneys CP	147	127	34	n/c	23	73	142	172	220	247	206	173
Nosterfield NR	257	144	83	39	8	20	30	36	70	142	249	264
Staveley NR	110	86	40	13	32	36	120	145	164	100	76	65
Swillington Ings	200	200	3	-	-	7	1	1	114	160	156	14
Tophill Low	381	240	124	196	2	3	7	236	925	564	773	136

VC 61 Counts from LDNNR have shown it to be of international significance in the past (mean 4429). In summer, 60 pairs remained but only five were proven to have bred. The Humber WeBS showed it to be most common on the upper Humber, with over 1200 there on 15th January, although Paull to Stone Creek held 430 on that date. High counts elsewhere included 171 at Welton Waters/Brough Airfield Marsh on 20th January, 572 at Paull Holme Strays on 31st October and 400 at North Cave Wetlands on 17th December. Virtually ever present at Filey Dams: 75 on 29th January; 180 on 20th December. Featured regularly past Filey Brigg with the highest count 167 north/53 south on 10th September. Small flocks could often be found in the bay, with a best 75 off Primrose Valley on 23rd December. Passage at Spurn included just 47 birds seen flying south, 17 coming in, and five moving north in the first winter period. Return offshore passage started on 15th June and continued until early December. Between these dates 4104 flew south, 448 flew north, and 71 came in, with the largest counts 429 on 12th and 340 on 18th October.
VC 62 Early year counts included 254 at Scaling Dam, 159 on South Tees and 38 at Wykeham Lakes in January, and 74 at Scalby Lodge Pond in February. The highest autumn count was 300 at Scaling Dam in November, with 150 at Scampston Park Lake that month. The highest count from the coast was 205 south at Long Nab on 31st August.
VC63 north Common winter visitor with very small numbers during the summer months and one pair found breeding. At Wintersett Res. up to 30 were noted in the first and last three months of the year and numbers peaked in January at Pugneys CP with 61 noted. In the Halifax area small numbers were present at a number of sites with 60 the maximum at Warland in September and 21 at Thornton Moor Res in November, with 100 at Cononley Ings in October and 110 in November. Three pairs were seen at undisclosed sites during the breeding season with one pair raising three young. **VC 63 south** The highest count of the year at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB was 312 on 10th and 11th of September. Three pairs bred there and one brood of seven young was seen. At Blacktoft Sands RSPB a maximum of 820 in January. Potteric Carr recorded peaks of 122 in February, 560 in November and 676 in December. At Beal Carrs the highest counts were 260

on 17th December and 235 on 31st December. At Thorpe Marsh there were peaks of 180 in January and 160 in November. On Thorne Moors NNR there were 300+ on 21st September and 400 on 30th October. Two females accompanied by young were seen on Thorne Moors on 20th July, although the Humberhead Peatlands is reported to hold a larger population of breeding birds.
VC 64 Whilst mating was observed at Sandbeds in March and 16 birds were still present in April there was no evidence of breeding. Counts included 100 at Nicholson's Lagoons in January, 75 at Esholt SW in January, 64 at Sandbeds Flash in March and 40 at High Royd SW in April. In the second winter period there were 25 at Fewston Res and 33 at Lindley Moor Res, and 42 at Farnham GP in November, and 90 at Sandbeds Flash in December.
VC 65 Bolton-on-Swale had a maximum count of 43 in January, and Semer Water had a maximum count of 10 in April. Flask's and Lingham Lakes had up to 45 birds in January to March and September to December. At Nosterfield NR a brood of five small young were seen on 18th July, but not seen subsequently.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL *Anas carolinensis* A 4,2,5,3,3

Rare autumn and winter visitor from North America; 52 previous records

Breeds across North America and winters in southern USA, Central America and the West Indies, but a regular British visitor.
VC 61 A drake spent the afternoon of 16th March at Filey Dams (J & TGD *et al.*) and a drake was near Old Fall, Flamborough on 19th April (IM).
VC 63 A male, at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB on 10th June and at Edderthorpe Flash on 11th, then presumed same bird again at Old Moor 27th August to 1st October.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos* AC

Fairly common breeder; common migrant and winter visitor. BBS 74/166: 27% (30) increase 1994-2005, 1% (13) increase 2004-05: WeBS Status - Int. threshold 20000: GB threshold 3520

The breeding population has increased at national rates although evidence suggests the population was similar to 2004 in the county.

WeBS counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Bolton-on-Swale	94	13	3	16	17	79	65	0	22	-	-	-
Copgrove Lake	77	52	12	-	14	63	-	122	97	61	141	107
Fairburn Ings	-	243	-	-	-	-	-	500	-	353	300	360
Farnham GP	97	20	32	15	-	-	-	72	32	53	103	95
Hornsea Mere	290	325	315	195	240	195	155	160	190	135	265	300
Lingham Lake	337	167	25	14	11	25	109	228	80	136	230	255
Nosterfield NR	256	56	45	33	37	97	258	151	150	87	126	147
North Humber	1654	881	425	178	186	606	150	577	661	587	1033	1069
Pugneys CP	129	98	34	n/c	23	73	142	172	179	247	179	148
Semer Water	50	-	30	18	19	80	-	170	150	140	-	170
Staveley NR	110	86	40	13	32	36	120	145	164	100	76	65
Tophill Low	260	385	158	56	38	49	190	311	355	312	801	513

VC 61 The January Humber WeBS was particularly high, with 677 in the Paull to Stone Creek section on 15th. About 30% of the counts were in the upper Humber area. The December total was slightly lower than the previous two years. Peak counts elsewhere included 119 in Pearson Park, Hull in January, 260 at PHENR in August and 311 at North Cave Wetlands in December. At Spurn, passage was only noted between 3rd August and 9th December during which period 133 flew south.
VC 62 A widespread duck, small numbers breeding throughout the area. Counts in January included; 305 at Scaling Dam, 185 in Albert Park, Middlesbrough, 60 at Seamer Road Mere, 193 at Wykeham Lakes, and 143 at Peasholm Park. Peak monthly counts were 160 on the South Tees and 330 at Scaling Dam, both in November.
VC 63 north Common breeding resident, seen on all waters in varying numbers. Numbers of this familiar species have declined substantially in the VC over last few years. Twelve broods were noted at Pugneys CP. The highest count in the Halifax area was 110 at Shibden Park in November. At Swillington Ings numbers barely reached 60 for the first seven months with 300 in August, 240 in September and 190 in October the highest totals. At least twenty broods were seen including one of 14. Wintersett had a poor year with 98 in February the highest count in the first half of the year. However they had a record breaking breeding season with 29 broods totalling 171 young hatched. As a result autumn numbers were higher with 188 in August and

273 in September. The highest counts at Rodley NR were 90 in October and December with four broods of young hatched. At Cononley Ings there were 200 on 26th October **VC 63 south** 420 was the maximum count at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB on the 21st November. A total of 165 young were noted from 17 broods there. At Beal Carrs, where Mallards also breed, the peak counts were 465 on 30th July, 575 on 3rd August and 550 on 6th August with 344 there on 10th December. Blacktoft Sands RSPB had a peak count of 237 on 23rd Sept and 19 breeding pairs. Peaks at Potteric Carr in November and December were 633 and 759 respectively.
VC 64 Bred at many suitable sites in the Harrogate area and at Barden Scale, Ilkley Tarn, Lindley Wood Res Otley Wetland, Saltaire, and Strid Wood and along the River Wharfe. Counts not in the table above were: 217 at Strid Wood in January, 525 at Grimwith Res on 24th September and 220 at Lindley Wood Res in November.
VC 65 A common bird present and breed on most waters through out the VC, for example Nosterfield NR produced 24 broods of young.

PINTAIL *Anas acuta* A

Amber list: rare breeder, uncommon migrant and winter visitor.
WeBS Status - Int. threshold 600: GB threshold 279

One pair bred in the county, reflecting its national rarity as a breeding species. Recent years have seen some recovery in wintering numbers of birds from northern Europe east to northern Russia, both locally and nationally, after 20 years of decline.

Peak counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
LDNNR	122	296	100	30	2	0	0	0	3	5	78	163

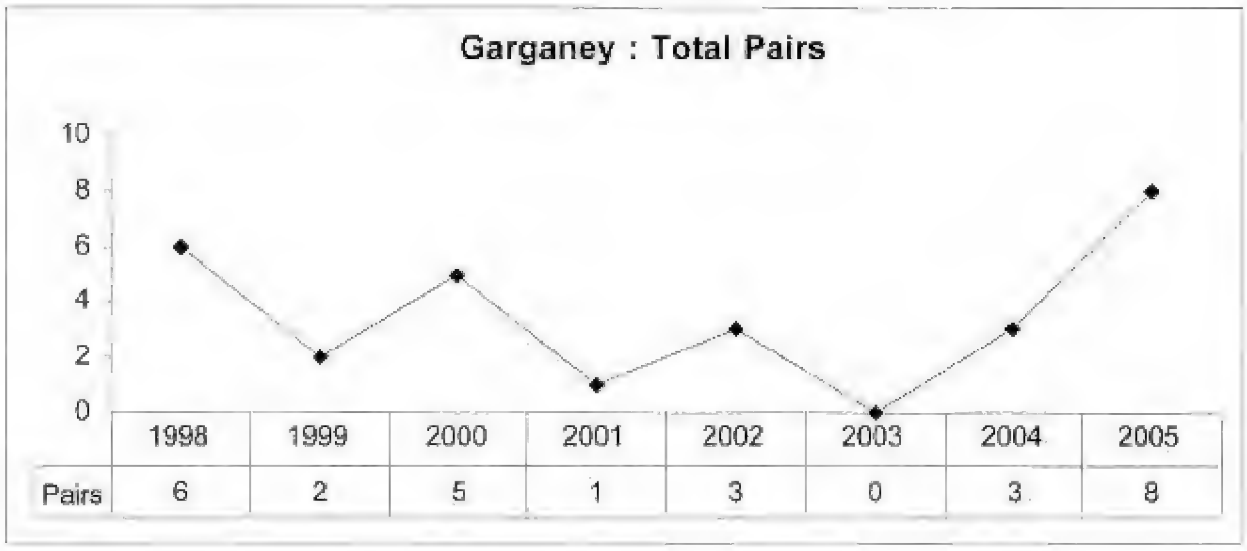
VC 61 The LDNNR is of international significance as a wintering site, but the peak count was only 296 on 18th February. A first-winter drake caught at Thorganby on this date had been ringed at Ely, Cambridgeshire in December 2004.192 were counted on the Humber WeBS on 15th January mostly from the Welwick/ Skeffling area, these remaining into February. A flock of 104 was on the Humber at Spurn on 22nd January. Five frequented Brough Airfield Marsh in January and February. Twenty were at Easington Long Bank on 2nd and 7th March. At North Cave Wetlands, ones and twos were noted in January, February, and August and occasionally from September to late December. Three were at Filey Dams on 22nd March, a drake there on 27th April and a single on 27th May. A pair was seen at Aughton Ings on 3rd May, then a duck with 7 newly hatched ducklings was found on 11th June, the first breeding in the LDNNR since 1998. A single drake lingered at Bank Island from 18th to 15th April.
In autumn, four were at Filey Dams on 24th/25th August and one on 28th to 31st August. On 10th September 22 flew north and three south past Filey Brigg and four north on a sea watch on 17th September. There was a reasonable autumn passage at Spurn where between 25th August and 9th December, 317 flew south, 43 flew north, and 28 came in. High counts included 48 on 11th and 83 on 17th October. Return passage in September was noted at Flamborough, where 42 passed south over 9 dates, and coincidentally 42 were on Hornsea Mere on the 27th of that month, the peak count.
VC 62 Always scarce in the first half of the year. Fourteen were recorded in the Scarborough area up to July 31st, with one or two at Scaling Dam, and then a small coastal passage was noted from August 14th to end of October.
VC 63 north Blackmoorfoot Res had a single on two dates in January, three in February and two in March. Fairburn Ings RSPB had 30 in January with an average of six during February and March. Singles were seen in May and August with numbers peaking at 20 in September and October, 18 in November and ten in December. Birds were present at Swillington Ings in every month apart from May with peak counts of 13 in January, 14 in September and 21 in October. Two were at Cononley Ings from 9th to 15th January. In the autumn birds were at Thornton Moor Res on 5th and 6th August, a male at Cononley on 18th September, while Wintersett Res recorded birds from 4th September with 13 the largest count in October with three on 14th November the last sighting, and a female was at Cononley Ings on 16th November. **VC 63 south** Beal Carrs had 21 on 23rd January and ten on 10th February. Beal's first returning bird was on 17th August and the last was a drake on 10th December. At Old Moor Wetlands RSPB up to five birds were recorded from January to March with last on 1st April. The first bird returned on the 1st of September with up to eight recorded regularly then to the year-end. At Blacktoft Sands RSPB the maximum was 30 seen on 7th October.
VC 64 Widespread throughout the area in small numbers. Twenty-two were at Long Preston Floods on 4th January with 50 on 21st. One to three were at Nicholson's Lagoon on several dates between 23rd January and 27th February with a maximum of seven on 25th. One to five were at Staveley NR during January to March; one at Knotford Nook on 9th January, two at Embsay Pond on 17th, one at Ripon Parks on 16th February and one north at Silsden on 17th March. The first returning birds were at Snaygill SW on 17th, one at Scargill Res on 3rd September, a drake at Otley Wetland on 4th and two at Hay-a-Park on 17th. One to five birds were at Staveley NR on five dates between September and December with a maximum of eight on 11th October. Three were at Gouthwaite Res on 10th November, a pair at Silsden Res on 19th and 14 at Hellifield Flash on 14th December.
VC 65 One or two were regularly at Nosterfield NR from January to April and again in October and November, with a maximum of four on 23rd October. A very similar pattern occurred on Lingham Lake January to April,

with a maximum of six on 22 January. One was present on 10th September with ten on 16th October. Bolton–Swale had a single record on 10th April.

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula* A

Amber list: rare breeding summer visitor and scarce migrant March-Oct. BBS 0/166

Between four and eight pairs are thought to have bred in the county. Breeds from Britain east to Siberia and West Palearctic birds winter in sub-Saharan Africa. Proof of breeding is difficult to obtain, non-breeders may also linger in spring, and more pairs may have been present throughout this period in the LDNNR, so the figures below are of birds reported present that at least meet the RBBP criteria as possibly breeding.



	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Pairs	6	2	5	1	3	0	3	8

VC 61 The first seen were on 2nd April when two were at Eastrington Ponds and two at Spurn Point. In April and May one to two birds were recorded at Hornsea Mere, PHENR, Swinemoor, Watton NR, North Duffield Carrs and Wheldrake Ings. At Tophill Low up to three were present from 16th April to 10th September, including a juvenile on 24th to 28th August. At North Cave Wetlands, a drake was seen on 25th April, a moulting drake on 12th June, and a female on 2nd and 3rd of July. Breeding – in the LDNNR, three broods were seen, of eight, seven and five ducklings, with two young ringed. A fourth pair was present. Late birds included singles at Spurn on 17th and 25th August, a single at Filey Dams from 10th to 23rd September, one south at Flamborough on 13th October, one at PHENR on 14th and one on Hornsea Mere from 12th to 16th October.
VC 62 A pair was at Scaling Dam on March 21st, one was at Coatham Marsh from 1st to 18th September and one was at Scalby Lodge Pond on 20th September.
VC 63 A pair arrived at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB on the 3rd April and thereafter they were recorded occasionally until June, with only the male seen in July. In autumn up to two juvenile birds were recorded infrequently during August and September with the last record on the 3rd of October. At Blacktoft Sands RSPB birds were recorded in the spring on six dates between 12th April and 21st May with maximum of three on 14th May. Here was a single autumn record there on 26th August. At Wintersett Res recorded a male arrived on 4th May remaining until the 5th. Further sightings included a female from 26th to 27th June and a single on 18th August. At Fairburn Ings RSPB single birds were seen between 7th May and 1st June with three males present on two occasions and two pairs were thought to have bred. A male was seen at Swillington Ings on various dates between 13th and 29th May and a female was found on 28th June, indicating possible breeding. In the autumn two were seen on most dates between 1st and 9th September with a single noted to 23rd September. A female was at Dale Dike Res on 18th June.
VC 64 Two pairs were at Staveley NR on 16th April and a single male on 13th May and 8th June, and a male was at Long Preston Flashes on 21st April. An eclipse male was at Farnham GP on 9th September when a female was seen at Staveley NR.
VC 65 A female with two young were seen in a quarry near West Tanfield on 17th June. The only other record was of a single bird at Lingham Lake on 12th September.

SHOVELER *Anas clypeata* A

Amber list: scarce breeder; fairly common migrant and winter visitor. BBS 0/166
WeBS Status - Int. threshold 400: GB threshold 148

The wintering population appears to be stable.
VC 61 At least three pairs bred at North Cave Wetlands, two pairs at Brough Airfield Marsh and a pair at North Ferriby. Occasional past Filey Brigg, with seven north on 10th September and 22 south on 29th October the best. A scarce bird at Spurn early in the year, but autumn passage offshore saw 61 fly south and 14 fly north, giving a maximum count of 11 on 17th October.
VC 62 There were no breeding records, and only low numbers wintering, with 32 at Coatham Marsh and 26

WeBS counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Fairburn Ings	165	-	-	20	20	-	-	-	-	250	200	150
Hornsea Mere	94	82	115	38	64	29	14	29	70	68	70	140
Lingham Lake	8	8	16	3	11	2	0	1	22	2	1	2
Nosterfield NR	6	8	23	25	13	10	5	20	31	29	18	10
Swillington Ings	14	141	8	n/c	8	3	15	70	68	70	82	34
Tophill Low	85	34	17	44	1	0	6	10	25	13	119	64
Wintersett Res	29	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	41	103	97

on the South Tees in September and 18 at Wykeham in November high counts for the area. Smaller numbers were noted at Scaling Dam.

VC 63 north Despite birds being present during the summer months at Fairburn Ings RSPB, no details of breeding were received. At Swillington Ings birds, despite several birds noted on breeding territory, only one female was seen with one duckling. Small numbers were present at Pugneys CP from January to 3rd April with 21 the highest total in January. Cononley lead mine pond held up to three males and a pair from 21st March to 17th April. Birds returned from 3rd July remaining until the end of the year, with 35 being the peak count in December. Three returning birds were at Cold Edge Res on 10th July and three were at Thornton Moor Res on 31st October. **VC 63 south** Recorded throughout the year at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB with a new area maximum of 180 noted on 4th October. Up to five females were noted in May although breeding not confirmed. At Blacktoft Sands RSPB the year's peak count was of 70 on 1st November and there were five breeding pairs. Present in all months at Potteric Carr with high counts of 61 in January, 57 in August and 60 in December. Beal Carrs had a maximum of 30 on 8th September. A brood of three young was seen on Thorne Moors NNR on 26th June.

VC 64 Common throughout the area but in no large numbers. Nicholson's Lagoons had a maximum of nine in February, Staveley NR 16 on 20th and Copgrove Lake eight on 27th with 12 on 7th March. A pair was at Otley Wetland on 21st, two pairs at Lindley Moor Res on 23rd with a pair at Knotford Nook on 25th. Two were at Otley Wetland on 1st April, 12 at Staveley NR on 4th when two at Silsden Res. Seven were at Hay-a-Park on 4th September with a single at Otley Wetland on the same day. Other counts included 16 at Hay-a-Park on 15th October, 12 at Farnham GP on 17th; 11 at Nicholson's Lagoons in November with a single at Redcar Tarn on 6th.

VC 65 Present through out the year in the Nosterfield area. Flask's lake also held one or two birds throughout the year. Nosterfield is the only area to hold breeding birds, with six to eight pairs on Nosterfield NR and of these three broods of six, five and four fledged successfully. One pair on Flask's Lake fledged three out of a brood of five. Bolton-on- Swale had only odd records with a maximum count of 15 on 21st August.

RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina* AC2E* 7,15,11,20,16

Rare migrant; escapes from captivity and feral birds confuse status

This species breeds in southern Europe and from Germany east to the Black and Caspian seas. Many are kept in wildfowl collections and these probably account for most, if not all the reports.

VC 61 A male visited Hornsea Mere from 26th October to 6th November and was also seen 27th to 29th November and on 18th December (EJH: RL: BR).

VC 63 An immature male was present at Pugneys CP on 5th August, 4th September and 15th October when it was joined by another bird thought to be a female. A female was at Ulley Res CP from 11th to 18th September and possibly the same bird was seen at Southfield Res on 19th September.

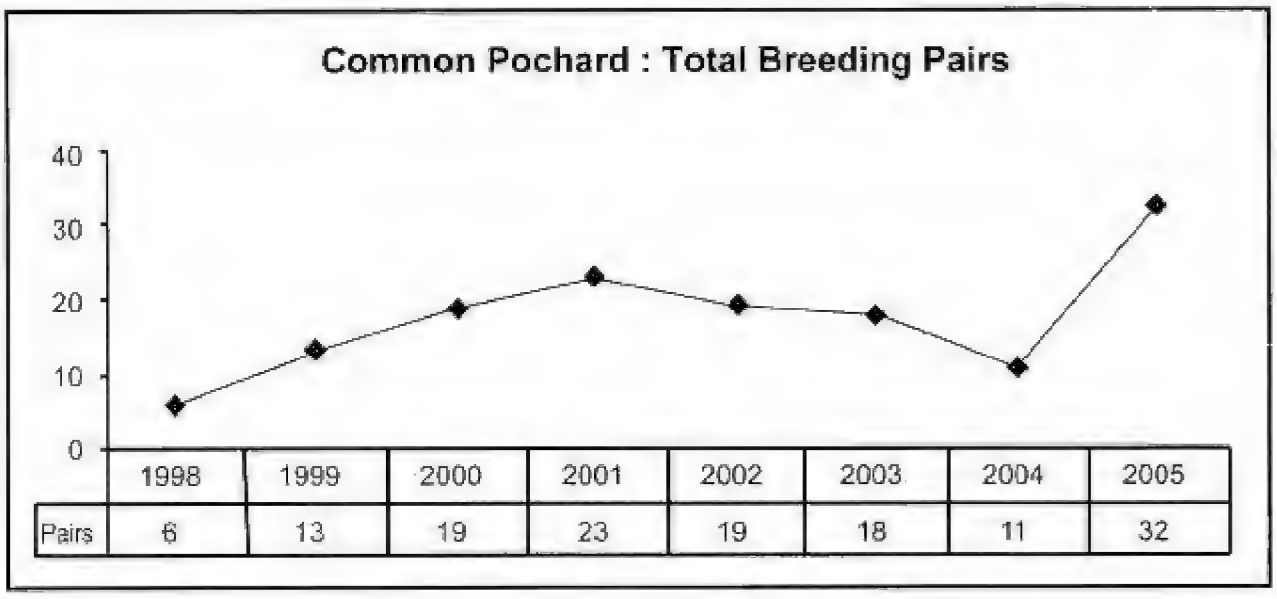
VC 64 A flock of 12 birds in eclipse plumage were at Farnham North Lake on the evening of 8th September. They were sleeping most of the time and only two pink-billed males were detected.

COMMON POCHARD *Aythya ferina* A

Amber list: scarce breeder; fairly common migrant and winter visitor. BBS 1/166
WeBS Status - Int. threshold 3500: GB threshold 595

Breeds across northern Eurasia, including eastern Britain. Breeds on suitable waters in the county, with 29-32 breeding pairs noted, including Blacktoft Sands RSPB (5), Blackstone (1 pair summering), Fairburn Ings RSPB (11), Lower Derwent Valley (1 possible and 1 probable pair), Potteric Carr NR (3), Swillington Ings (5), Tophill Low NR (3) and Welton Water (2). At least six broods were reported. The national wintering population is at historically low levels.

VC 61 The 1150 counted in January at Hornsea Mere, the county's premier site, was lower than the previous two winter maxima, but above the five-year mean. Also in January, 169 were counted at Welton Waters, 131 on the Humber at Crabley Creek, 52 at North Cave Wetlands, 50 at East Park, Hull, 46 in LDNNR and 34 at Dacre Lake, Brandesburton. A pair is thought to have attempted breeding in LDNNR, three pairs at Tophill Low and two pairs at Welton Waters.



WeBS counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Bolton-on-Swale	149	98	28	0	0	0	5	18	20	-	-	-
Hay-a-Park	62	77	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	37	37	70
Hornsea Mere	1150	780	915	245	180	175	295	400	490	610	980	1150
Fairburn Ings	140	135	-	30	30	-	122	-	-	216	100	100
Lingham Lake	48	30	8	0	0	0	11	29	36	30	91	32
Nosterfield NR	64	10	18	0	0	3	4	2	4	15	8	19
Wintersett	105	39	16	0	n/c	2	20	6	34	97	21	140

VC 62 The highest count was 42 at Wykeham Lakes on 11th February. Small numbers were at Burton Riggs, Scaling Dam, South Tees and Seamer Road Mere in both winter periods.
VC 63 Birds were present in every month at Fairburn Ings RSPB but it was not known whether any pairs attempted to breed. Two pairs appeared to be on territory at Wintersett but these failed or it was not a serious breeding attempt. Birds were present in every month at Swillington Ings with the highest totals being 210 in February, 100 in March and September and 140 in December. Five broods were seen including one brood that appeared without an adult but still managed to survive. In January 183 was the highest count at Pugneys CP for the first half of the year with an average of 100 noted from October to December. Beal Carrs had a peak count of 35 on 29th October. At Old Moor Wetlands RSPB, the year's maximum was 65 on the 19th of December. Five pairs bred at Blacktoft Sands RSPB. Three pairs at Potteric Carr raised at least seven young.
VC 64 Few reports away from favoured sites: in January, 40 were at Knotford Nook, 17 at Fewston Res, 18 at Yeadon Tarn, 15 at Gouthwaite Res, and 18 at Nicholson's Lagoons. In February, 15 were again at Gouthwaite Res, 36 at Staveley Res, 27 at Otley Res, with 120 at Malham Tarn on 9th.
VC 65 Peak counts were relatively low with the only one three-figure count, of 149 at Bolton-on-Swale in January. Other peak counts were 91 at Lingham Lake in November, 64 at Nosterfield in January, and 55 at Flask's in September.

RING-NECKED DUCK *Aythya collaris* A 4,5,4,3,4

Rare but regular vagrant, with pattern of returning wintering individuals

This North American duck is an annual visitor to the county, with some individuals regular returnees.
VC 61 The wintering male continued its stay into 2005 at TLNR and Watton NR, being recorded at those locations on many dates from 1st January to 24th April (JA: MGH *et al.*). It was also seen at Hornsea Mere on 23rd January (EJH: RL: BR) and PHENR on 30th January and 6th to 8th February (DGH: RL).
VC 62 Two females were found on Coatham Marsh on 16th November, remaining to the end of the year.
VC 63 A first-winter female was located on the river at Lemonroyd Lock, Swillington Ings on 27th November (MB). It remained until the end of the year moving onto Astley Lake and the Main Lake at St Aidan's, where it could be elusive amongst the large number of diving duck.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula* A

Uncommon breeder; fairly common migrant and winter visitor. BBS 7/166
WeBS Status - Int. threshold 12000: GB threshold 901

The breeding population appears to be increasing in line with national trends, and the wintering population is similarly increasing, with Tophill Low NR remaining the most important site.

WeBS counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Bolton-on-Swale	71	34	22	61	16	22	107	118	79	-	-	-
Fairburn Ings	-	-	-	-	-	-	300	220	-	-	369	-
Farnham GP	197	141	71	72	52	-	-	-	80	106	185	166
Flask's Lake	26	20	27	30	23	56	82	116	54	49	33	115
Hornsea Mere	815	620	595	375	195	280	310	425	1400	600	840	790
Lingham Lake	94	38	39	32	22	27	67	92	73	73	47	63
Nosterfield NR	28	40	36	38	39	63	41	42	30	16	9	19
Pugneys CP	221	89	71	n/c	8	18	21	108	535	153	173	129
Tophill Low	207	175	196	158	77	137	725	533	287	200	817	116
Nicholson's Lagoon	102	84	68	71	35	24	42	41	35	31	47	33
Swillington Ings*	600	550	93	n/c	37	44	6	11	15	120	20	872
Wintersett	105	31	25	128	47	13	186	261	73	193	101	45

*January, February and December totals include St Aidan's area

VC 61 Bred (pairs in brackets) at North Duffield Carrs (7), Pocklington Canal (7), Bank Island (2), Allerthorpe Old Pits (2, max. count 86), Allerthorpe Water Park (2), Wheldrake Ings (2), Lowthorpe (2), North Cave Wetlands (several, max. count 96), Tophill Low (3), East Park Hull (1), Ellerton (1), Filey Dams (1), PHENR (1), Routh Pits (1) and Saltmarshe Delph (1). Maximum counts included 210 in LDNNR on 30th March and 93 at North Cave Wetlands in January.
VC 62 Breeding was confirmed from Coatham Marsh, Margrove Ponds, Scaling Dam, Scampston Park Lake, Peasholm Park, Wykeham Lakes (3 broods), Peasholm Park, and Scalby. Early year counts included 41 at Scaling Dam and 21 at Lakeside Lodge, Rillington in January, 48 at Wykeham Lakes in February, and 37 at Scampston Park Lake in March. The best late year counts were 98 at Scaling Dam in October and 61 at Seamer Road Mere in December.
VC 63 One brood of ducklings was noted at Redlands Sand Quarry. Birds were resident at Fairburn Ings RSPB but no breeding details were received. At Swillington Ings, forty-one pairs raised at least 280 young. Four pairs bred at Wintersett with twenty-one young noted, of which twelve fledged. Smaller numbers also occurred at various waters in the Halifax area and at Blackmoorfoot Res. but no breeding took place. At Old Moor Wetlands RSPB the maximum noted was 180 on 6th July - an average year with 16 broods containing 110 young. Four pairs bred at both Blacktoft Sands RSPB and Beal Carrs, seven broods were recorded at Potteric Carr and one at Thorpe Marsh.
VC 64 Bred at the following sites: Bellflask Quarry, 7 broods most of which failed; Ripon Parks, one brood of six; Staveley NR and Farnham GP, three broods; Hay-a-Park one brood of four; Otley Wetland, two pairs and Denton Hall, one pair. Widespread on suitable waters with maximum of 62 at Hay-a-Park on 16th January with 50 at Staveley NR and 57 at Knotford Nook during the month, 56 at Otley Wetland in March, 57 at Gouthwaite Res in August and 93 at Hay-a-Park in October.
VC 65 Widespread and present on most suitable waters. Breeding records came from: Nosterfield NR -eight broods of 9, 8, 7, 5, 5, 2, 2 and 1 (of these about 50% fledged); Lingham Lake - a single brood of 11; Flask's Lake - three broods of 8, 6 and 1; and at Marfield NR, a single brood of five.

(GREATER) **SCAUP** *Aythya marila* **A**

Amber list: uncommon coastal migrant and winter visitor; scarce inland.

The birds wintering in Britain of this circumpolar species mostly come from Iceland and Scandinavia east to Siberia, usually favouring marine habitats, but some are occasionally seen inland.
VC 61 Up to two were seen at BPNR between 1st and 31st January. One was at Watton NR on 3rd January. At Spurn one was recorded on 9th January, and another on 22nd and 24th and two were on the Humber there on 29th March, as was a drake on 15th April. One was at Thorganby on 11th January, two at TLNR on 21st January, a female was on Hornsea Mere on 3rd February, a drake at Filey on 13th February, one at Bank Island from 12th to 25th March and three, including two drakes, were seen at North Duffield Carrs on 16th March. Two females were on Hornsea Mere on 27th and 28th March, and a drake at North Duffield Carrs from 23rd May to 7th June, being caught in a duck trap on 2nd. Four flew north at Barmston on 4th June, while one at Flamborough on 30th July was unexpected, presumably the same bird seen at Filey the same day. The first autumn bird was on 3rd September at Flamborough. Also in September, singles were seen at Filey on 10th, 13th and 17th, and eight flew south at Spurn on 24th with one the following day. In October, eight were on the Humber on 4th, with one remaining to 10th; singles flew south on 11th and 19th, with two south on 25th. November saw four on 9th, two south on 13th, nine south on 14th, and six on 17th. Two south on 9th December was the last record of the year. Elsewhere, only one was counted on Humber WeBS counts, on 18th September on the Paull to Stone

Creek section, and Hornsea Mere recorded singles on 8th November and 1st December, with nine present on 30th November and six on 16th December. TLNR recorded two on both 18th October and 6th November.
VC 62 A female was at Scalby Lodge Pond on 17th January. A drake remained at Scaling Dam from 28th June to 28th September. One flew north at Long Nab on 10th Jul and two passed Cowbar on 10th September. A female was at Northstead Manor Gardens Scarborough from 21st September to 3rd October, and another female was at Scarborough harbour on 15th October, followed by one south off Marine Drive. The last were in November, when two (one drake) flew south past Jackson's Bay on 2nd, one was at Redcar on 13th, one at South Gare on 16th and one at Coatham Marsh on 18th.
VC 63 Swillington Ings recorded single birds on 22nd and 27th January, 9th and 17th July and one from 4th to 31st December. Singles were also noted at Blackmoorfoot Res on 16th February, Pugneys CP from 7th to 11th February and 16th October, and Whitehome on 16th September. Wintersett Res hosted two males from 8th to 11th July, one from 24th to 25th July, single females on 4th August and 6th September and a male from 22nd to 23rd October. An immature drake was at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB on 6th October and an immature female was on Manvers Lake from the 22nd to the 26th October. In the Sheffield area singles, mostly females, at Harthill Res and Thrybergh CP between 12th January and 3rd April with two at Thrybergh on four dates.
VC 64 A female lingered at Otley Wetland from 2nd to 22nd January and another from 28th November to 28th December. The female at Staveley NR in December 2004 remained until 25th March.
VC 65 Two immatures were long staying birds at Nosterfield NR from 8th January to 30th April. One bird achieved near full adult male plumage before leaving. These birds occasionally commuted to Lingham Lake. A single female was at Cleasby GP between 25th and 31st December.

LESSER SCAUP *Aythya affinis* **A** 0,0,3,0,2
Vagrant: 5 previous records

A common Nearctic duck that winters to northern South America.
VC 61 A drake was found at Hornsea Mere, remaining from 13th November to 18th December through into 2006 (TI: AFJ *et al.*)
VC 62 A drake seen at Stapleton GP on 21st July was re-located at Cleasby GP on 22nd and 23rd (SCB *et al.*).

EIDER *Somateria mollissima* **A**
Amber list: uncommon coastal migrant and visitor; rare inland

This marine species breeds at Coquet Island, Northumberland northwards, but some non-breeding birds summer on the coast, and others winter.
VC 61 The traditional resident winter flock at Filey was still present but in much lower numbers. The flock peaked at 22 on 29th January, with 21 still present around the Brigg on 23rd May. Small numbers summered at Flamborough Head. One was at Barmston on 23rd January and six there on 29th. A lone bird was present on the Humber at Spurn for most of the year. Small numbers were regularly seen offshore and occasionally on the Humber in the early months and again from mid-August to the year end. One was off Paull Holme Strays on 3rd April. Passage at Filey included 24 south on 13th November; 42 north on 26th November; 29 north on 27th November; 36 north/24 south on 3rd December; 79 north on 27th December. Peak passage counts at Flamborough were 330 on 19th and 114 on 20th November. Six flew north at Atwick on 19th August and one south on 12th October. The highest count at Spurn was just 52 on 17th October.
VC 62 Recorded in every month from the Cleveland area, with 28 on the South Tees in August and 40 in December, but in the Scarborough area, not seen in May and September, and mostly less than five birds present. A northerly movement past Long Nab in November included 17 on 19th, 70 on 27th, and 165 on 28th.

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis* **A** 131,44,58,74,69
Amber list: scarce coastal migrant and winter visitor, rare inland.

The nearest breeding locations of this circumpolar species are in Iceland and north Norway, and birds thought to be of Scandinavian and Russian origin winter regularly in the southern North Sea in small numbers. National counts were high this year.
VC 61 A long-staying bird remained at Welton Water from 1st January to 21st April, being joined by a second from 28th February also to 21st April. January also saw one in Filey Bay from 1st to 30th, one at Flamborough on 8th, two at BPNR on 24th, when one also flew south at Spurn and three at Spurn on 25th. One was at Flamborough Head on 6th February and singles were seen at Filey on 12th, 26th and 28th. One flew south at Spurn on 12th March, one briefly at Filey on 31st March, a pair present briefly at North Duffield Carrs on 4th April, a female in Filey Bay from 9th to 25th, one at Spurn on 16th April and a fine summer-plumaged drake at Spurn on 5th May.
In the second winter period, two flew north at Atwick on 16th September, with a gap then until 19th October when one flew south at Spurn. Three flew south at Filey on 23rd October, this being shortly followed by one that remained at Paull Holme Strays from 30th October to 12th November. November saw a series of records

from the coast, including three north at Filey, ten at Flamborough, 11 north at Spurn, one at Ulrome on 16th and two at Skipsea on 21st. In December, just two were seen at Flamborough on 18th.
VC 62 One was at South Gare on 18th January and a drake was in Scarborough harbour on 23rd January, the only early year sightings. In autumn one flew south off Marine Drive Scarborough on 19th October, singles were seen at South Gare, Cowbar and Staithes on 13th November, three flew north at Marine Drive on 17th November and a drake north there the next morning and two flew north at Long Nab on 28th November.
VC 63 A male was at Pugneys CP on 27th May and what was presumably the same bird was at Winterset Res the following day and on 8th and 9th June. A male was also seen at Fairburn Ings RSPB on 15th June. A female in almost full breeding plumage was located at Skelton Lake on 11th June and was seen again on 12th, 14th and 16th. What was almost certainly the same bird was re-found on the main lake at St Aidan's, Swillington Ings on 3rd July remaining in the area until 30th August

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra* A
Red list and UK BAP species: fairly common coastal visitor, rare inland

The long-term population trend has been of slow decline.
VC 61 The first period witnessed a resident flock around the end of Filey Brigg numbering 40 initially and peaking at 84 on 26th March. Counts at Filey in June/July included 109 north/40 south on 25th June; 190 north on 10th July and 275 north on 28th July. The notable counts in August all came in the first half, including 290 north on 8th, thereafter a gap until 170 north/62 south on 10th September and 153 south on 13th November. Regularly recorded in three-figure numbers at Flamborough, with 177 on 3rd February, 133 on 30th April, 200 on 25th June, 500 on 10th July, 480 on 8th August, 450 on 10th September, 120 on 2nd October 256 on 19th November and 400 on 18th December. 1000 were counted off Bridlington on 11th November. There was no regular flock on the Humber during the first winter period and only small numbers were occasionally seen at Spurn, the peak count being 80 on 22nd January. Offshore saw small numbers on a regular basis, with high counts including 158 on 30th January; 154 on 4th February and 133 on 15th May. Highest autumn counts included 604 on 13th October, 1268 on 17th November. Inland, one on Welton Water on 30th March; a female at North Cave Wetlands on 2nd April with five birds present on 1st May; four at TLNR on 4th April; one on Hornsea Mere from 17th April to 15th May, and another on 10th October, and 10 on the Humber off Paull on 2nd July increasing to 38 by 14th.
VC 62 In January, *c.*100 were seen off Saltburn and 40 off Redcar. One north past Long Nab on 12th February was the only early year record in the Scarborough district. Spring passage was recorded along the coast from 13th March and seemed to be continuous and merging with returning birds in June. 80 north on 1st May at Long Nab and 120 north at Cowbar on 19th June were the spring peaks. Larger counts at Long Nab involving returning birds were 280 on 10th July, 389 on 8th August, 382 on 10th September, and 455 on 3rd October. 214 flew north at Cowbar on 10th September. November saw the last significant movements with 105 past Long Nab on 19th and 122 past South Gare on 24th. The only December sightings were 21 past Long Nab on 4th and two south at Marine Drive on 18th. The only inland record was of a drake on Wykeham Lakes on 18th April.
VC 63 north At Wintersett a male was present from 10th to 13th April, a female from 21st to 25th June with five males also on 25th, a female from 31st July to 5th August and possibly a different bird on 9th August. Single birds were noted at Pugneys CP on 14th April and 24th July. Lower Gorple held eleven birds on 16th June, joined by two more the following day. Nine drakes were at Fairburn Ings RSPB on 18th June and a single male was seen on 24th July. A single was at Thornton Moor Res on 23rd July and five there on 10th October. In August, Blackmoorfoot Res hosted a male on 9th and a pair on 19th with one at Ringstone Edge Res on 10th. October was a good month for passage with two pairs at Wintersett Res and a pair at Blackmoorfoot Res on 4th, 14 were at Redlands Sand Quarry on 6th was the largest flock recorded during the year, and one was on the Main Lake at Swillington Ings on 15th. **VC 63 south** Four records at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB, one on the 1st of April, a pair from the 2nd to the 8th of April, and singles on 1st of May and from 19th November until 1st December. At Blacktoft Sands RSPB only one record of a flock of 42 flying west on 14th November. Singles at Sprotborough Flash 28th March (a drake), Broomhill Flash 31st March and 1st April. Five, including two drakes, were at Thrybergh CP also on 1st April. Singles, a drake and female respectively, were at Doncaster Lakeside on 14th and 26th April with five there on 29th July. Southfield Res had two drakes on 9th June, one remaining until 16th and another drake was there from 23rd to 28th August. A female was at Rother Valley CP on 20th June and a drake was there on 17th October. A drake was at Forge Dam Pond, Sheffield on 30th June. In the Sheffield area, singles at Ulley CP, Rother Valley CP, Thrybergh CP and Forge Dam with higher counts of five at Thrybergh on 1st April and four at Rother Valley CP on 11th September and 4th October.
VC 64 Thirty-five passed over Barden Scale on 1st August.

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca* A 168,366,252,338,215
Amber list: uncommon coastal migrant and winter visitor, rare inland

This Holarctic species breeds in northern Scandinavia and is a scarce winter visitor to the east coast. In common with other coastal passage birds, there may be some duplication in records.
VC 61 The year opened with a single at Filey on 1st January, with one in the bay on 23rd January, but then a big gap until the next one south on 8th June. Records increased from the late summer period, with singles

north on four dates in August, then 19 noted in October, 11 in November and seven in December. Without a resident Scoter flock in the second half, most sightings were of birds in flight past the Brigg. The majority of records (71) came from Flamborough, where in January one was seen on 16th and three on 22nd, then three on 6th and four on 25th February. The next were singles on 21st and 23rd July and eight on 22nd. Four singles followed in August and three singles in September, 15 bird days in October, 27 in November and just one in December on 3rd. Elsewhere, one was at Spurn on 23rd January with seven north there on 4th February, two at Barmston on 26th February and one on 29th June, and singles at Spurn on 21st March, 27th July and 5th August. Forty-five were noted at Spurn between 1st October and 18th November and two were at Mappleton on 24th October.

VC 62 Six were off Redcar between 6th and 18th January. As usual, records were more numerous in the autumn period. At Marine Drive Scarborough six flew past on 22nd July, one on 28th, two on 8th and 10th August, three on 9th September, one on 4th October, five on 18th, three on 21st October, and in November one on 17th and three on 23rd. Birds were recorded from South Gare and Cowbar in September, with no more than three on any day, and one flew south at Cowbar on 13th November.

VC 63 A female/immature bird on the River Ouse at Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 17th January flew off east. Probably only the second reserve record (MJP).

GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula* A

Amber list: fairly common migrant and winter visitor, a few over-summer. BBS 1/166
WeBS Status - Int. threshold 4000: GB threshold 249

Hornsea Mere is the only nationally important wintering site within the county of a species that breeds from Scotland east to Siberia.

WeBS counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Fairburn Ings	48	83	80	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	30
Farnham GP	33	26	25	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	18
Gouthwaite Res	31	32	22	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	41	35
Hay-a-Park GP	27	28	58	34	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	15
Hornsea Mere	240	372	508	76	1	0	0	2	1	28	94	125
Lingham Lake	16	18	23	14	0	0	0	0	0	9	8	6
Pugneys CP	42	41	53	-	-	0	1	0	0	1	19	38
Staveley NR	9	9	179	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	5
Wintersett Res	59	105	109	47	1	-	-	1	-	3	15	37

VC 61 Winter counts have been declining nationally for seven years, but the peak counts at Hornsea Mere were above average. Tophill Low recorded 115 on 13th March. Small numbers are seen at Welton Waters (max. 19 in March), Crabley Creek (13), PHENR (7) and North Cave Wetlands. Five flew south at Filey on 21st March and two north past Filey Brigg on the unusually early date of 7th August. Eighteen were in Filey Bay on 24th October. Seen in both winter periods offshore at Spurn, but there were only five records in the first three months, while four north on 31st July were unexpected. Return passage at Spurn commenced on 30th September with high counts of 18 on 25th October and 49 on 17th November.

VC 62 Small numbers were present at South Tees (max. 46), Scaling Dam (max. 14), Wykeham Lakes, Seamer Road Mere, and Burton Riggs in the winter months. The highest coastal count was 85 north past the Marine Drive Scarborough on 17th November.

VC 63 Birds were at Pugneys CP from January to 17th April and 14th October to end of December with a female present on several dates in July. At Old Moor Wetlands RSPB up to twenty birds, the year's maximum, were recorded on several dates in January - 19 on the 19th December was the next highest count and the late year maximum. Small numbers were present during the winter months at Blackmoorfoot Res with a maximum of nine in October. Five displaying males and four females were at Flosh, Cononley on 18th January, one at Cononley on 16th February and three were at Ogden Water on 24th April. At Wintersett Res, the last was on 1st May, but a female was seen on 4th August. At Swillington Ings, birds were noted from January to 10th May with the highest count being 36 in March. The first bird returned on 15th October, counts reaching 28 in December. A female summered at Fairburn Ings RSPB along with a male that bore rings suggesting it had escaped from captivity. Small numbers were seen during the winter months at various stretches of water in the Halifax area. Two were at Low Laithe Res on 19th October.

VC 64 In addition to the four sites tabled, in January three were at Bradley Ings on 9th and two drakes at Grimwith Res on 14th. In February 27 were at Bar Lane Quarry on 1st with 14 at Studley Lake on 16th, nine at Chelker Res on 26th and 18 at Otley Wetland on 28th. Three females were at Staveley NR on 1st May and one at Hay-a-Park on 2nd. A female was at Farnham GP on the unusual date of 31st July and two were there on 10th September.

VC 65 Nosterfield NR held up to ten birds regularly between January and 23rd April and again up to eight from October to the year end. Flask's Lake had small numbers except for 15 on 19th February and 14 on

28th March. Small numbers up to 11 were at Bolton-on-Swale. A single bird was back at Marfield NR on 29th September where again small numbers occurred in the winter months.

SMEW *Mergellus albellus* A
Scarce winter visitor Nov-April

VC 61 Most commonly recorded at Watton NR where a drake and five ducks during January, with an additional drake by 11th February. Four were on Hornsea Mere on 14th January. A redhead was present on Brough Airfield Marsh from 16th January to 23rd April. One redhead was also present north of Wheldrake at Raker Lakes on 23rd February. A Redhead was present again at Watton NR and occasionally TLNR from 16th October, a drake from 18th November and by December, three drakes and two redheads were present.
VC 63 Two redheads at Fairburn Ings RSPB that were present from the beginning of the year were joined by a male at the end of January, with four birds seen regularly throughout February. In March two birds were recorded until 30th, being accompanied by a third bird on occasions. A redhead reappeared on 3rd December remaining until 29th. Single males were at Potteric Carr on 21st January (DJP *et al.*) and Southfield Res on 2nd February. A redhead was at Pugneys CP from 26th January to 22nd March and a redhead was at Beal Carrs on 1st and 2nd December.
VC 64 The only record was of a male at Gouthwaite Res from 10th to 29th March.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator* A
Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor

VC 61 A pair was in Filey Bay in January. Seven flew north on 18th September, and it was regularly recorded on most October sea watches, with a best of five on 13th. Sightings came from Flamborough through the year, in January, April, July and October to December. One was off Barmston in February. Singles were occasionally seen at Spurn in January, March, April, July and December, with two on 21st April. 33 flew south and 23 flew north between 28th September and 19th November giving a maximum count of seven on 25th October and 11th November. Inland, one or two were at BPNR from 2nd January to 16th February, one was at Paull Holme Strays on 14th – 20th March and another 17th – 25th April, two at TLNR on 5th May and five on 8th July, one at BPNR from 8th to 29th July. Two were on Hornsea Mere from 13th - 15th November and one was at Filey Dams on 8th December.
VC 62 In the Scarborough area, ones and twos were occasionally recorded along the coast from January to March, with up to eight on South Tees. One was on the sea off Cromer Point on 20th June followed by a series of birds moving along the coast from July to November, mostly one to three birds but a party of six flew north at Long Nab on 8th July, and five south off Scalby Mills on 24th November.
VC 63 A female was at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB on 22nd and 23rd January. A male and female spent two days at Pugneys CP from 12th April, three drakes were at Edderthorpe Flash on 1st May while at Blackmoorfoot Res a male was present from 4th to 19th June, and a redhead was there on 18th July. In November, further single redheads were noted from 1st to 3rd, 9th, 10th and 13th. A female was at Swillington Ings from 30th to 31st October and a redhead was at Old Moor on 25th October. A female was at Thornton Moor Res on 6th November and there was a single at Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 1st and 2nd December.
VC 64 An immature male was at Farnham GP on 14th November.
VC 65 A single bird was at Nosterfield NR 10th September.

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser* A
Uncommon to scarce breeder; uncommon migrant and winter visitor. BBS 1/166
WeBS Status - Int. threshold 2700; GB threshold 161

Breeds on fast-flowing rivers mostly in the west of the county, with numbers swollen in winter. Males fly to Tana Fjord, North Norway to moult during September, and this may account for some coastal sightings.
VC 61 Inland, two pairs were at Londesbrough Park on 9th January and eight there on 31st, and a redhead was present at Welton Waters in January, with females in March and December. Up to 10 birds wintered in East Park, Hull in January and February and nine in the second winter period from 30th November. TLNR hosted singles on many dates in January, April, November and December, with two in March. Three were on the Humber off Melton on 3rd March and singles at Hornsea Mere 3rd-5th April and on 12th November. On the coast, two flew north at Filey on 1st January, a redhead visited the Dams on 29th March, while the bay hosted a pair on 27th May. Somewhat unusually, the same location held a redhead on 30th June. One sheltered in the bay on 6th and 7th October and four flew south on 8th October. Finally, the Dams attracted a fine drake on 4th December. At Flamborough, 15 birds were recorded from January to April and October to December, with six on 18th August. Singles were noted at Ulrome on 4th March and 5th April. Recorded in small numbers (maximum eight) passing offshore at Spurn in January, March, April, October, November and December. An unusual record was 13 which flew out of the Humber and then continued north on 2nd August.
VC 62 At Skelton Castle, the peak winter count was seven on 11th January. Further inland to the south, five were on Buttercrambe Weir on 2nd February. Elsewhere, small numbers of less than five were noted in January, February, March, October and December from a range of sites. On 10th July, a party of seven immatures was on the River Derwent near Low Marishes, possibly a local brood.

VC 63 At Blackmoorfoot Res birds were present in every month except September the highest counts being 28 in January and 41 in December. Birds were present at Wintersett from January to 18th April and from October to the end of the year with peak counts of January 55, February 44 and 41 in December. At Fairburn Ings RSPB, birds remained until 16th April from the beginning of the year, reappearing in late October, with 30 in December the highest count. Nineteen was the maximum at Elland GP between January and March with counts of 30 in November and 70 in December. Numbers have decreased at Swillington Ings over the last couple of years, and although birds were seen in every month except June, the highest count was only 34 in December. At Old Moor Wetlands RSPB, the highest count in the first part of the year was 37 on 26th February and the year's maximum was 70 on the 31st December. Southfield Res had a maximum of 38 on 29th January and 45 were at Thornton Moor Res on 27th December. Bred at Marley (11 young), Hebden (2 young), and a female and 17 immatures were at Cononley on 2nd July.
VC 64 Bred: Askwith (6 young), Bolton Abbey (2 and 11 young), Burley (6 young), Gouthwaite Res (one pair), Darley (2 young), Pool Mill (12 young), Otley (11 young), River Skell, Ripon (crèche of 20), Starbotton (12 young), Studley Park (one pair), Thorlby (female & 13 young), Nidd Gorge (5 young) and Little Ribston (four young). There may be some duplication in counts from along the Wharfe. Maximum counts of wintering birds were: 89 at Lindley Wood Res on 4th February, and 27 at Nicholson's Lagoon on 27th December. Hay-a-Park had a poor year with a maximum of only 20 in January and December. Single figures were reported from Bellflask Quarry, Brighouse, Cranscliffe Res, Farnham GP, Glasshouses Dam, Hay-a-Park, Lister Park, Manningham, along the rivers Nidd, Long Preston Floods and Ure and Snaygill SW.
VC 65 On the river Ure flocks of up 40 birds occur with pairs breeding in suitable areas along the river system. A pair nested in a Tawny Owl box at the High Batts NR but unfortunately abandoned the nest at the egg stage.

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis* C

Scarce feral breeder since 1980; uncommon visitor from 1968

The major national fall in numbers seen in the previous winter following control measures was not followed by a further decrease, with high counts noted at some Yorkshire waters.
VC 61 The peak count at Tophill Low NR in the first winter period of 124 in January was the highest since 2002. One pair later bred at Tophill. Hornsea Mere recorded 78 on 8th February. Eight had returned to Filey Dams by 28th March, with eleven present on 3rd April – with the Golf Course Pond attracting a further three on the same date. At least two broods were raised on the Dams. Two males and two females were on Allerthorpe Old Pits on 23rd April. At North Cave Wetlands a pair was seen from 5th to 15th May, two males from 9th June onwards with four males seen on 23rd June, then one to four birds present on and off throughout July, August, September, October, November and December. A drake was on East Park Lake Hull on 12th May. Ten present at Brough Airfield Marsh/Welton Waters on 22nd June was the peak count. A pair bred at Saltmarshe Delph. Six were at Londesbrough on 21st August and 16 at Routh Pits on 14th September. Four females/immatures flew south at Spurn with a pair of Common Eider on 7th November, the 4th Spurn record.
VC 62 Noted in small numbers in the first winter period at Scaling Dam and Margrove Pond. Just one female was seen in January and February at Wykeham Lakes, also at Seamer Road Mere, and possibly the same bird back at Wykeham in September. Four were reported at Smallways Lake on 15th May. Bred at Margrove Ponds where four broods totaling 20 ducklings were seen.
VC 63 The highest counts in the VC were in the Wintersett area with 170 in January, 163 in October, 158 in November and 155 in December with one brood of four ducklings. Three broods of eight young were noted at Pugneys CP the highest counts being 43 in February, 33 in March and 24 in December. Birds were present throughout the year at Fairburn Ings RSPB with 80 in March and November the highest totals with no breeding information received. Nine was the maximum at Rodley NR in May with small numbers resident and at least one pair bred. Five pairs bred at Swillington Ings, one pair having a second brood with a total of 27 young noted. Thirty-five was the maximum for the first six months with counts of 54 in September and 47 in December. At Old Moor Wetlands RSPB, there was a maximum of 35 on 23rd July and six broods were recorded with 29 young counted. Eleven pairs bred at Blacktoft Sands RSPB and around six pairs bred at Potteric Carr. A female was seen with four young on Thorne Moors NNR on 24th July.

Monthly counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Bolton-on-Swale	23	26	25	19	0	0	5	9	57	-	-	-
Flask's Lake	0	0	0	0	0	5	3	20	21	6	0	0
Lingham Lake	5	7	5	5	6	4	3	28	15	22	26	5
Nosterfield NR	0	0	0	7	14	10	17	8	7	3	0	1

VC 64 As usual small numbers reported from usual sites with post-breeding numbers increasing at Hay-a-Park from September before dispersal in December. Maximum counts there were 16 in August, 22 in September, 41 in October and 23 in November. Two females were at Knotford Nook on 13th January, a pair at Lindley Wood Res on 14th March, and a female at Otley Wetland from 1st April to 1st May with a male on 15th and possibly the same on 20th. One was at Farnley Lake on 12th. April, when three were at Sawley

Dene and five at Ripon Racecourse Lake; five at Gouthwaite Res in May and six at Nicholson's Lagoon in June. Two females were at Otley Wetland on 9th September and another on 26th November. One or two remained at Farnham GP throughout the year.
VC 65 A pair bred on Lingham Lake and had three young on 27th July.

RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus scoticus* A
Fairly common resident breeder of upland moors. BBS 37/166

Yorkshire is an English stronghold of this subspecies of the European Willow Ptarmigan. Breeds exclusively on heather moorland where the population is managed. Only recorded in about 50 % of squares proportionally in North Yorkshire compared to 1994, probably due to marginal habitat loss, and recent increases fell away in 2005, although recorded in more squares in West Yorkshire this year.
VC 62 No change in status reported from North York Moors NP.
VC 63 The only records received were from the Halifax area, the highest counts being 15 pairs at Fly Flatts on 7th March, 30 on 29th November and 7th December, eight at Whiteholme on 26th September and ten at Walshaw Dean on 16th December. Thirty were seen at Warley Moor late in the year. An unusual record was of a bird on Soil Hill in a small patch of heather in otherwise unsuitable habitat.
VC 64 A poor breeding season with few shooting days. Only count was 53 on Barden Moor and up to 30 on Overden Moor towards the end of the year.
VC 65 Widespread on suitable upland habitat, this species had a poor breeding season, resulting in Estates vastly reducing there shooting activities.

BLACK GROUSE *Tetrao tetrix* A
Red list and UK BAP species: rare to scarce resident breeder. BBS 0/166

Has increased in recent years in the YDUBSA despite degradation and fragmentation of habitats along the moorland fringe, and possibly increased predation, although complete data is only available to 2003, when 76 lekking males were recorded (21 recorded in 1997).
VC 65 A small number of leks varying from one or two birds to low double figures. One area reported 6 young fledged.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa* C
Common resident. BBS 43/166: 50% (49) increase 1994-2005, -14% (2) decrease 2004-05
The population in North Yorkshire has been expanding, recorded from more than twice as many squares as Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix* and a similar pattern applies to Humberside. Releases for shooting are significant in both areas, but populations in South and West Yorkshire appear to be more static and similar in size to Grey Partridge. The 14% decrease recorded by BBS this year may be artificial, as the general trend is upwards.

VC 61 Widespread, but no double figure counts were received.
VC 62 Widespread throughout the district but particularly numerous around the Wykeham Estate and adjacent Carrs where birds are released for shooting.
VC 63 Records are sporadic and many may well be of birds released for shooting. Coveys noted at Beal Carrs consisted of 11 on 13th January and 10 on 23rd February and adults with young were recorded there in June and July. Six pairs were located during the breeding survey at Swillington Ings down from twenty last year, but hardly any young were seen. Groups of up to twenty were flushed after the breeding season suggesting they had been overlooked. At Wintersett Res, two territories were located with four at Moorhouse Lane Ponds in October the maximum count. There were only three records from the Halifax area with one heard calling at Luddenden Dean on 19th March, one at Soil Hill on 29th April and two at Ovenden Moor on 7th July, whilst 100 at Carleton on 12th September included many released birds. Small numbers were also recorded at Fairburn Ings RSPB with ten the highest count.
VC 64 Reported in small numbers throughout the area with largest coveys 45 at Flixby on 11th October, 25 at Brearton on 16th, 15 at John O'Gaunt's Res on 9th November and 10 at Doe Park Res. Only two family parties reported; eight at Brearton on 24th July and six at Bellflask Quarry on 25th.
VC 65 Widespread from middle to low ground with many released by shooting syndicates. Several broods were recorded in the Nosterfield area.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix* AC
Red list and UK BAP species: fairly common resident. BBS 21/166

Nationally declined by 88% 1970-2005, and in Yorkshire only occupies about 50% of BBS squares compared to 1994, with figures for 2005 suggesting a decline in area and population size in North Yorkshire, its stronghold within the county.
VC 61 Sparsely distributed. The largest count was 37 at Bewholme on 18th October. Coveys were regularly seen on Sunk Island. At North Duffield Carrs, a covey of 19 birds was seen on 29th October. At Spurn usually up to eight birds were recorded, with a maximum count of 11 in November.
VC 62 Maintaining a healthy breeding population, with no apparent change noted in the last ten years. A covey of 23 at Star Carr on 29th August was the largest number reported.

VC 63 The population appears healthy despite shooting activity. Good numbers were seen regularly at Swillington Ings with at least five pairs breeding and forty young noted. A couple of pairs also bred in the Skelton area with coveys of ten to fifteen frequently seen. At least sixteen were noted at Fairburn Ings RSPB during most months but no breeding information was received. Records were received from thirteen sites in the Halifax area with 12 at Ringstone Edge Res in October, 11 around Ogden and eight at Soil Hill in September and 11 at Castle Carr Road in November the largest coveys seen. Although there was no evidence of breeding it almost certainly took place at a number of sites. A poor year at Throstle Nest farm however, where five pairs only raised one young. Nineteen territories were located in the Wintersett area with 21 seen in October the largest count. There were regular sightings throughout the year at Pugneys CP with one pair seen with young at Durkar Flatts. Two to three birds were also noted on a regular basis in the fields near to Blackmoorfoot Res during the year, and at Rodley NR the highest count was seven in January, and at least one pair were seen with three chicks. Coveys of 19 recorded at Beal Carrs on 13th January and 24 on 21st November with breeding confirmed in July and August.
VC 64 Breeding reports from Follifoot, an adult and 10 chicks on 19th July, Baildon, an adult and three young, and Birley three young, with a brood of seven at Ripon Parks during the month. Largest coveys: ten at Otley Wetland on 1st January, ten at Bailden and Denton Moor and 12 at Otley Wetland. Twelve were regularly near Ripon Cemetery January to March and five at Beaverdyke Res on 7th September. Twelve were between Lea Green and Conistone and above Kettlewell in autumn and 12-15 at Hag Dyke on 28th November.
VC 65 Widespread but in much smaller numbers than the former species. Recorded from high ground but more frequently at lower altitudes. This is a species that has also had its population supplemented via releases by shooting syndicates. A covey of eight was in the Nosterfield NR in January.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix* A

Red list: scarce summer visitor. BBS 1/166

An excellent year, with proof of breeding from Thorne Moors and the LDNNR, and a further 79 singing birds were noted away from coastal areas during the breeding season. Other birds heard singing at coastal sites were most likely migrants.

Common Quail : Singing Males

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Singing males	51	82	10	15	20	16	13	81

VC 61 The first of 44 recorded was singing at Bubwith Ings on 3rd May, followed by Bempton RSPB on 19th May. Also in May, one was at Sammy's Point Easington on 21st, one at Buckton on 22nd, one flushed at Spurn on 22nd, three were calling in a large bean field at Foston on 24th and in the same period, one was calling from grass at North Cattleholmes, one was singing at East Newton and one at Aldbrough Fishponds on 25th, one singing at Flamborough Head on 28th and another from 29th to 30th. In the LDNNR, two males were singing at Ellerton Ings on 28th May, with four there on 29th and three at East Cottingwith on 30th. Migrants in June included a single at Sammy's Point Easington and two at Spurn, all on 5th. Two were heard calling at Burton Agnes on 16th and one called near Brandesburton on 30th. Eleven males were heard singing in the LDNNR in late June, with a further five singing at Pocklington airfield. In July, birds called at Bank Island on 8th, North Duffield Carrs and Aughton on 11th, Weaverthorpe on 14th and Patrington on 29th, whilst in August, birds called at Thornton Ellers on 1st, Filey on 5th, North Cave Wetlands from 7th to 9th, Watton NR on 16th and Welwick on 27th. A pair was seen with three chicks at Ellerton Ings in July.
VC 62 Twenty-eight birds were reported, the first being at Ruston Carr on 19th May. Singing males were also reported from Aislaby (five birds), Binnington Carr (four birds), Escrick, Ingleby Greenhow, Kirkleatham, Rudland, Scarborough Tip, Sherburn, Skelton, Strensall Common, White Carr and Wykeham Ings (five birds at the latter site). Birds were reported singing at coastal sites in June including Long Nab Burniston on 17th and 18th, Robin Hoods Bay on 21st and Ravenscar on 26th. One was flushed at Coatham Marsh on 1st September and an autumn migrant was seen at Long Nab on 25th September.
VC 63 A male was heard calling prior to midnight on 22nd June near the old canal flash west of Cold Hiendley Res, and one was heard calling, though only briefly in fields near Skelton Lake from 15th to 16th July. An adult with 5-6 recently hatched chicks was seen on Thorne Moors NNR on 24th July. Single calling birds in

the Sheffield area on 23rd June and 2nd July and one was flushed at Cononley Ings on 24th July. A male sang from farmland adjacent to Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 17th August.
VC 64 Just one record: a calling bird at Bishop Monkton on 8th May, Burley on 17th June.
VC 65 A single bird was heard at Cleasby GP on 23rd April. Single calling birds were also heard at Lingham Lake on 10th May and 17th June.

PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus* C

Common to abundant resident
BBS 131/166: 42% (39) increase 1994-2005, -11% (-3) decrease 2004-5

One of the most widespread species in the county, with particularly large populations in North Yorkshire where many are released for shooting. The decrease noted this year might therefore be entirely artificial.
VC 61 Widely released for shooting, recorded at Spurn and in Hull.
VC 62 Many are released for shooting on the Wykeham Estate.
VC 63 Shooting and feral populations appear robust.
VC 64 As usual many thousands of birds released at shooting estates but no counts.

RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata* A

Amber list: fairly common coastal migrant and winter visitor; rare inland

This circumpolar species breeds in Europe in northern Scandinavia and north-west Scotland. The lack of severe weather ensured winter counts were low, especially in the first quarter, although there were more wintering birds in the offshore waters in the south of the county .
VC 61 Peak counts at Filey were 26 south on 29th January, 61 south on 10th September and 120 south on 17th September. It was the worst year on record at Flamborough Head, with no counts reaching treble figures. No more than 30 in January and February, with 88 the best count of the year on 15th March. In autumn, three in August, 80 on 10th September, 75 on 11th, 85 on 17th and 60 on 18th. Sometimes 50 in October except for 69 on 14th, and 40 on 13th November. Birds wintered in Bridlington Bay between Atwick and Barmston, (see table). 85 were on the sea off Cowden on 12th November.

Peak counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Bridlington Bay	32	54	153	24	-	-	-	-	18	40	127	-
Spurn	49	134	191	9	6	1	1	3	264	52	84	65

Up to mid-March, as many as 50-60 a day could regularly be seen at Spurn, probably birds that winter off the south Holderness coast, with passage noted in March and September. Inland records were one on Hornsea Mere on 19th March and one on Routh Pits from 2nd to 7th November.
VC 62 Records came from every month, but generally scarce from mid May to mid August. Only small numbers were wintering along the coast, the largest concentration being 15 in South Bay Scarborough on 19th January. One was off Skinningrove on 22nd March. June sightings included one off Redcar on 1st, one at Saltburn on 7th and two north past Marine Drive on 26th, and the only July record involved an adult in Burniston Bay on 8th. Autumn movements brought the largest counts, fresh northerlies on 16th September encouraging 68 south past Long Nab in a dawn while dusk sea watch.
VC 63 One at Southfield Res on 14th January. One in full summer plumage was found on the main lake at Pugneys CP on 29th September. One flew south at Denholme Clough on 2nd October, the fourth record for the Bradford Area.

Red-throated Diver Photo: Peter Martin

BLACK-THROATED DIVER *Gavia arctica* A 107,73,68,64,49

Amber list: scarce coastal passage migrant and winter visitor; rare inland

Small numbers breed in Scotland, but most of Yorkshire's records are of birds from Scandinavia and northern Russia. This was a relatively poor year for numbers.

VC 61 Four were recorded at Flamborough on three dates in January. One was seen on several dates between 30th January and 11th March at Barmston. Singles were seen at Spurn on 21st February and 7th March. A single was in the bay at Filey from 5th to 12th March and on 15th March one was at Flamborough and three at Barmston, with another at Flamborough on 12th April. Late birds were at Barmston on 26th June and Flamborough on 24th July. Five were noted on four dates in September at Flamborough with a gap until the next flew north at Spurn on 13th October, when one flew south past Filey Brigg, followed by another on 15th October, then singles at Flamborough on 23rd October, Spurn on 7th and 8th November. Eight were recorded on six dates in November at Flamborough, and singles again at Flamborough on 15th and 24th December, when one was also at Barmston. Inland, one was on Hornsea Mere on 4th December.

VC 62 The first flew north at Ravenscar on 22nd January, one was off South Gare on 19th March with another north at Long Nab Burniston on 24th April. There were no summer records, and the next flew north past Long Nab on 10th September, with singles seen at Cowbar on 11th and 16th, and three north past Marine Drive Scarborough also on 16th September. In October one was in Jackson's Bay on 26th and one at Whitby harbour mouth on 31st.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer* A 122,83,52,55,58

Amber list: uncommon coastal passage migrant and winter visitor; rare inland

A regular winter visitor from Iceland and Greenland, the nearest breeding grounds of this essentially Nearctic species. Numbers, for the third year running, were relatively low.

VC 61 Five were recorded on four dates in January at Flamborough Head and also that month, singles flew north at Spurn on 22nd and 29th. In February, one was at Barmston on 1st, an oiled bird was on the sea at Spurn on 21st and one flew south at Skipsea on 28th. One was in Filey Bay from 3rd to 5th March, and singles were then noted at Spurn on 11th March and Flamborough on 2nd April and 7th May, with the last being again in Filey Bay on 12th May.

The first of the autumn were two at Flamborough on 23rd September, with one on the sea at Hornsea on 29th. Just one was seen at Flamborough in October, on 1st, but Filey Brigg saw the first of a series of singles south on 23rd with others on 30th October, 6th November and two southbound on 9th November. One flew north and two south at Filey Brigg on 13th November, followed by a single south on 20th November. There were 11 bird days at Flamborough in November, however, with singles at Spurn on 9th and Hornsea on 13th. A single inhabited the environs of Filey Bay from 26th November to the year end, providing welcome views for those who prefer to see their birds on the water, and two flew south at Flamborough on 18th December.

VC 62 One was off Cromer Point on 5th March, and one off South Gare on 16th April, with the next flying north in full breeding plumage on 25th July past Marine Drive Scarborough. Singles flew north at the same site on 16th September, 14th October and 17th November. Birds were seen in Jackson's Bay on 5th and 11th November, one flew south at Cowbar on 13th and one flew north past Long Nab on 27th November. A wintering bird appeared at South Gare on 18th November, with two there on 18th, remaining into December.

VC 63 On the 6th October one was found on the main lake at Pugneys CP flying north later in the day.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis* A

Uncommon resident breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 2/166

Breeds on small, shallow fresh waters, and easily overlooked unless riverine surveys are conducted, but no evidence to suggest recent increases have changed.

VC 61 Bred at Filey Dams (3 broods) and Filey GC, along the upper reaches of the River Hull and Foston Beck, Saltmarshe Delph (2 pairs), Hornsea Mere, North Cave Wetlands (5 pairs), Tophill Low, Welton Waters and Wheldrake Ings. Highest counts were 23 along the Lower Derwent Valley on 21st January and 20 on Welton Waters in August.

VC 62 The stronghold remains The Derwent, with one pair on a small pond near Ganton. Seven were at Scaling Dam Res in December.

VC 63 Present in small numbers at most waters throughout the year with 67 at Old Moor in August, 20 at Swillington Ings in September and 16 there in July, and 22 in September at Fairburn Ings RSPB the highest counts received. At least two to three pairs bred at Rodley NR with seven young noted, a pair at site near Cononley raised two broods, five pairs bred at Pugneys CP, three pairs are thought to have bred in the Wintersett area and a minimum of four pairs raised 13 young at Swillington Ings. Thirteen pairs at Blacktoft Sands RSPB. At Old Moor Wetlands RSPB, 17 pairs bred with 15 broods producing 30 young. Two pairs raised three young at Potteric Carr but other pairs there were flooded out. Two adults with one juvenile were on Thorne Moors NNR on 26th June.

VC 64 Common throughout the area at suitable sites. Bred: Staveley NR, three pairs, Farnham GP, four pairs, along the River Wharfe and possibly at John O'Gaunt's Res. Counts included 12 at Farnham GP on 16th January, 11 at Hay-a-Park during the month and 10 at Knotford Nook with up to 13 at Studley Lakes

during January to March, 10 at Staveley NR on 3rd April and 11th September with 18 at Farnham GP on 18th and 17 on 29th December. Again up to 10 at Studley Lake during October to December.
VC 65 Common throughout at suitable sites, with breeding occurring at many. Monthly maxima at Nosterfield NR included ten in April and May and, post-breeding, 32 in August. Bolton–on-Swale had a maximum of eight birds.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus* A

Uncommon to scarce resident breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 2/166

A widespread species in Europe found on larger lowland lakes, reservoirs, meres and gravel pits. Small numbers winter on the coast. There is no evidence of population change.
VC 61 Breeding was confirmed at Burton Constable, Tophill Low, PHENR (four pairs) and Welton Waters (two pairs). In January, eight were in Filey Bay on 23rd and 10 on 6th March. High counts elsewhere included 88 in Bridlington Bay on 3rd February, 13 at PHENR in September, 48 at TLNR in October, 18 at Welton Water and 22 on Hornsea Mere in November and 78 on the sea between Skipsea and Ulrome on 14th December.
VC 62 Successful breeding took place at Seamer Road Mere, Burton Riggs, and Wykeham Lakes (two pairs). Two pairs at Scaling Dam Res were unsuccessful.
VC 63 Present in varying numbers on most lakes and reservoirs throughout the area the largest counts being at Fairburn Ings RSPB with 30 in April, 39 in July, and 29 in October, and the Wintersett area with 44 in January and 43 in July steadily increasing to 84 on 29th December. Four pairs bred at Pugneys CP, twelve pairs bred in the Wintersett area, at least thirteen pairs raised broods at Swillington Ings and one pair attempted to breed at Blackmoorfoot Res. Two pairs were recorded at Blacktoft Sands RSPB and at Old Moor Wetlands birds were recorded throughout the year with five pairs holding territory and a peak count of 25 at Old Moor in June. Eight young were raised at Potteric Carr.
VC 64 Bred: Bellflask Quarry (one pair), Farnham GP (three pairs raising seven young), Gouthwaite Res (one pair raising 3 young), Hewenden Res (one pair raising 2 young), Lindley Wood Res, Otley Wetland (four juveniles), Staveley NR (three pairs) and Swinsty Res (four juveniles). Maximum counts: ten at Yeadon Tarn on 10th February; 12 at Farnham GP in January, 14 in March and ten in September; seven at Hay-a-Park in February, October and November and nine at Staveley NR in May, July and September.
VC 65 Relatively common on the larger water bodies. Semer Water held a maximum of two with Bolton –on-Swale reaching four, Nosterfield NR seven in April and Lingham Lake 15 in July. Breeding was proven at Marfield NR where a singe pair fledged one and at Nosterfield NR where three pairs failed due to fluctuating water levels, but a late attempt hatched two chicks in July.

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena* A 26,48,34,24,57

Amber list: scarce migrant and winter visitor.

Breeds sporadically on fresh water in Western Europe, much commoner from Eastern Europe eastwards. Disperses westwards to salt or tidal waters, and is more common in the county when hard weather pushes continental winterers further west. Despite a lack of severe weather, there were more records this year than for some time.
VC 61 The first was in Filey Bay on 1st January, remaining from 2004. Two were in Barmston bay in late February and one there on 20th March followed by an adult at Hornsea Mere from 19th to 26th April. Singles were seen at Flamborough Head on 23rd and 30th July, with six in August including three on 21st. Two flew north at Filey on 10th September, a day of good wildfowl movement. Singles flew south at Filey on 2nd and 10th October; November brought two south on 19th, a single in the bay on 25th and two north on 27th. Five were seen at Flamborough on four dates in September, four in October and five in November. One was at Spurn on 17th September, with singles north there on 3rd and 4th October. The next at Hornsea Mere was a juvenile from 18th September to 8th October, another adult 31st November to 5th December and another juvenile 6th to 8th November. There followed three un-aged singles: 13th to 16th November, 30th November to 12th December and 4th December. Finally one was in Filey Bay on 6th December, one at Flamborough on 18th December and two on 26th.
VC 62 There were no records in the first winter period. The first flew north past Marine Drive, Scarborough on 8th August, followed by one south at Long Nab on 24th September and two south there on 2nd October. Singles flew south past Marine Drive on 14th October, north on 17th November and south on 28th November. One was at Coatham Marsh on 15th and 16th November.

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus* A 16,29,15,13,7

Amber list: scarce migrant and winter visitor, more frequent in autumn

A small population of the larger-billed form breeds in Scotland, but it is the smaller-billed eastern population, breeding from Sweden eastwards, which visits us in winter. Very few this year.
VC 61 One was on the sea off South Landing, Flamborough on 10th February and one flew north at Flamborough on 25th. One was on Hornsea Mere on 23rd September, one flew north past Flamborough on 19th November and one on Hornsea Mere on 15th December.
VC 62 One was reported close in at Cornelian Bay, Scarborough on 12th October.

VC 64 The individual at Hay-a-Park in 2004 remained until 16th January with one at Malham Tarn on 1st October (KRM).

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis* A 47,64,43,84,65

Amber list: rare breeder, scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

Breeds sporadically in the county and elsewhere in Britain, with a distribution, stretching from Spain eastwards. After last year's successes of 12 breeding pairs at four sites, this year only 1-2 pairs bred at one site in VC 63.

VC 61 The first returning bird appeared at Wheldrake Ings on 25th March, with single birds on 29th March and 2nd April. A different bird on 4th April carried two blue colour rings, having been ringed as an adult male there in 2004. These two remained until at least 15th. One with two green colour-rings was seen at North Duffield Carrs on 5th (rung as a chick the previous year), with an un-ringed bird on 7th, and a group of five on the River Derwent at Breighton on 8th, one of which carried two yellow rings, having been ringed as a chick in 2004. In total, nine birds were seen, but water levels were unfavourable and there was no evidence of breeding. Elsewhere, one was at TLNR on 1st April, with a full summer-plumaged adult there on 4th. Three summer-plumaged birds present all day at North Cave Wetlands on 22nd June was the only record of the year at that site. TLNR had a further eight individuals to 18th October including the occasional juvenile. The only interim month at TLNR without a record was August. At Hornsea Mere one was seen on 20th May and a further three occurred there: two from 22nd to 27th September (one remaining until 2nd October) and a final one on 4th December. One favoured the south side of Filey Brigg on 9th September and another was in Filey Bay from 4th to 12th October. One flew north at Flamborough Head on 18th December.

VC 62 One was reported close in at Cornelian Bay on 12th October.

VC 63 A pair in summer plumage was present on the Top Res at Wintersett from 7th to 16th April, with a further pair on the Park Lake from 6th to 8th May. An adult in breeding plumage was at Skelton Lake on 16th May. Seven adults were noted at one site on 2nd May. After this date, probably two pairs were present. A pair with one young was seen on 17th May, two adults and two juveniles from 25th June to July, but only one juvenile survived to August. Up to four birds were seen on Thorne Moors NNR with breeding confirmed there. One at Potteric Carr on 13th April and 1-2 at Lakeside Doncaster on four dates between 4th and 16th August. Birds at Potteric attempted breeding but were unsuccessful and though young were seen on 9th July, it is thought they succumbed to predation. Two were at Rother Valley Country Park on 12th May. In the autumn one was on the Park Lake, Wintersett on 19th October.

VC 64 One was at Farnham GP on 29th March. A pair appeared briefly at Ripon Racecourse Lake on 14th April and a juvenile at Hay-a-Park on 14th September.

VC 65 Two birds flew into Lingham Lake on 11th May and were present until dusk. A single bird was at Singleton on 14th and 15th June. The only autumn record was of a juvenile on 31st October at Cleasby GP.

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis* A

Amber list: fairly common breeder; common offshore; occasional inland

The nominate race *glacialis* breeds around the North Atlantic from Brittany to the Canadian Arctic, its range and numbers having dramatically increased in the last two centuries. In 2000, 252 pairs were counted at Bempton, a 39% increase from 1987, but although national numbers continue to increase, the population in the county may now be stable.

VC 61 Bred as usual along Flamborough Head north to Filey. Movement was counted at three locations. At Filey, 400 flew north on 19th February, followed by an additional 215 north next day. Sea watching stalwarts logged 600 south in an hour on 9th September, while December brought 120 south on 4th and 260 south on 10th. 2189 were recorded at Flamborough on 29th January after northerly winds, 1580 on 19th, with 1763 on 20th February. Other high counts were 1156 on 16th April and 1151 on 8th August. It was a much better spring and summer at Spurn than in recent years. Small numbers were recorded almost daily from mid-April and included some very good counts early on in the year. In April, 291 were seen on 16th, followed by another very good count of 169 on 20th. Other high counts included 193 on 8th August and 278 on 16th September.

Dark morphs or "Blue Fulmars" from the high Arctic were very scarce at Filey, confined to a single on 10th April and one south in the large movement of 'normal' Fulmars on 9th September. Twenty Blue Fulmars were recorded at Flamborough from January to April, with two on 7th June and singles on 24th and 29th July. Eight were recorded in autumn.

VC 62 An estimated 110 pairs bred between Skinningrove and Saltburn, and the same number between Cowbar and Boulby, the same total as 2004. Three pairs bred inland at Roseberry Topping. Twenty four pairs were present at Cloughton Wyke in June and eight pairs around nearby Hundale, but other colonies were not surveyed. The largest count was on 16th September when 600 flew north past Long Nab. One flew over Scaling Dam Res on 20th April. "Blue phase" birds flew north past Long Nab on 27th March and Cowbar on 10th September.

VC 64 One flew over the A1 at Bramham on 12th June.

CORY'S SHEARWATER *Calonectris diomedea* A 41,8,7,2,6

Rare late summer/autumn coastal vagrant from Mediterranean/North Atlantic

Breeds on the Atlantic Islands off West Africa. Post-breeding dispersal into the North Atlantic occurs, and some reach the North Sea, especially if weather conditions assist.

VC 61/62 An unexceptional year. The first of the autumn were on the 8th August, when birds flew north past Flamborough Head (PAL: BR *et al.*), Filey Brigg (JHo) and Long Nab Burniston (DBy), the latter two sightings certainly involving the same bird. A second bird flew north past Filey later that evening (JH). There were three further records from Flamborough Head: one north on 10th August (PAL), one south on 27th August (PAL) and one north on 10th September (PAL: BR) and one passed Kettleness Point on 31st August (AF).

GREAT SHEARWATER *Puffinus gravis* A 1,5,0,1,7

Rare coastal vagrant, mainly in late summer/autumn, from South Atlantic

Breeds at three sites in the South Atlantic, and as a transequatorial migrant moves clockwise around the North Atlantic, reaching British waters from July to October.

VC 61/62 The best year for some time, with records involving six or seven birds, between 7th August and 12th September. In August, the first flew north past Flamborough Head on 7th (BH: PAL: IM: RSt), with another the next day also north past Flamborough (PAL: BR). There was an unconfirmed report that this bird was also seen at Bempton at 0751, but it certainly passed Filey Brigg an hour later at 0820 (JS) and Long Nab, Burniston (NWA) some 33 minutes after passing Filey. The next sighting was from Whitestone Point on 8th when possibly the same bird flew north at 1335 (SMi), with presumably a second bird north there at 1810 (SMi). Three further records all came from Flamborough Head, where singles flew south on 12th August (PAL), north on 21st August (PAL: IM) and north on 12th September (PAL).

SOOTY SHEARWATER *Puffinus griseus* A

Uncommon summer/autumn coastal passage migrant; rare in spring/winter

A migrant from the southern hemisphere, has been declining globally in numbers in recent years, but 16th September saw record counts.

VC 61 In autumn, recorded between 7th July and 26th November, with out of season singles at Flamborough Head on 15th and 23rd January, and singles at Barmston on 25th and 26th June. Recorded on three July dates at Filey from 20th, but the highest count was only 31 on 8th August, although seven north on 26th November was unusual. Peak counts at Flamborough were 103 on 21st August, 361 on 10th September and a British record count of 2721 on 16th, falling to 243 on 17th. 295 were recorded on 14th October, with 19 seen in November. The first of the year at Spurn flew north on 7th July, followed by another on 23rd. Recorded regularly in single numbers from early August until 18th October. Highest counts were: 25 on 7th and 36 on 21st August; 33 on 11th September and an incredible 1520+ that flew north on 16th September, obliterating the previous record of 320 set in 1978. The only other double-figure counts were 52 on 2nd and 33 on 14th October. There were late records of eight on 13th, three on 16th and six on 26th November. On the big count day of 16th September, 899 flew north at Mappleton. Elsewhere, three at Atwick on 7th and one on 21st August, two from the RSPB Bridlington Skua cruise on 3rd September, one past Holmpton on 10th and three past Atwick on 16th September.

VC 62 An early bird flew north off Marine Drive on 8th July, followed by one past Long Nab on 21st July, and seven past Marine Drive the next morning. August saw movements on thirteen dates peaking at 37 on 20th at Long Nab. It was again regular in September but generally less than 20 daily. Strong northerly winds on 16th September sparked off a massive movement in the North Sea, several headlands recording record numbers. A dawn until dusk watch at Long Nab gave a total of 1,415 flying north (1,137 by 11.45am). 75 flew north past Cowbar on 19th. In October past Long Nab there was one on 2nd, and nine on 13th. One flew south past Marine Drive on 19th October, one past Cowbar on 13th and the last one north at Long Nab on 27th November.

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus* A

Amber list: fairly common coastal passage migrant, mainly summer/autumn

Breeds around the temperate North Atlantic, including western Britain and Ireland, with the majority of our birds transequatorial migrants wintering off the coast of South America, mostly Brazil, but some remain in the Bay of Biscay.

VC 61 Winter records at Flamborough Head included singles on 23rd January and 12th February. Recorded regularly at Flamborough from 16th April, with 78 on 30th May, 107 on 28th June, 385 on 23rd July, 531 on 8th August, 278 on 16th September and 187 on 2nd October. There were 8 records in November. First noted at Filey on 20th April when one flew south; the next, two north on 11th May. A better showing from mid-June and numbers continued to build with a July peak of 174 north on 22nd. The year's best total consisted of 193 north on 8th August. September sea-watchers were rewarded with 164 south on 9th and 93 north on 17th. Late northbound individuals were logged on 6th November, with two on 26th November and one bringing festive cheer on 27th December. The first of the year at Spurn was sitting on the sea on 24th February. One flew north on 30th March, followed by further singles on 8th and 11th April. Low single figures were recorded

regularly from early May, the exception being 12 on 9th May. From July, sightings became more regular and included high counts of: 21 on 6th, 50 on 7th, 38 on 20th, and 20 on 29th; 49 on 7th and 58 on 8th August; and 44 on 16th September. Small numbers were occasionally seen during October. Singles in November were seen on 13th and 16th, and the last record was of one north on 6th December. Elsewhere, 167 flew north at Mappleton on 16th September.
VC 62 The first flew north past Long Nab on 8th April, then four past on 9th May. Thereafter this species was noted frequently to mid October. Larger counts included 69 off Marine Drive on 7th July, 204 north at Long Nab on 8th August, and 219 north past there on 16th September. Up to 10 were recorded in October, then singles north at Long Nab on the late dates of 27th and 28th November.

BALEARIC SHEARWATER *Puffinus mauretanicus* **A** 57,29,73,15,45
Scarce coastal migrant, mainly in late summer/autumn

Breeds in declining numbers in the Mediterranean Sea, from where post-breeding dispersal takes place. Currently a regular visitor to British waters, with around 1,000 individuals reported annually.
VC 61 Single birds passed Flamborough Head on 23rd, 24th, 26th and 30th July, with 16 in August, ten in September, singles on 1st and 2nd October, two on 14th October and two on 26th November. Only eight were recorded away from this site, with singles north at Filey on 20th July and 8th August, and another on 15th August, and singles north in August at Spurn on 6th, Atwick and Spurn on 8th and Atwick on 10th and in September at Spurn on 14th.
VC 62 The first was one north at Long Nab on 10th July, followed by singles north off Marine Drive on 22nd July and 9th August. Two singles flew north at Long Nab in the evening of 8th August; one passed Kettleness Point on 10th; singles flew north at Long Nab and Kettleness Point on 30th August, south at Cowbar and Kettleness Point on 10th September and three singles flew north at Long Nab on 16th September.

EUROPEAN STORM-PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus* **A** 111,75,119,94,45
Amber list: scarce to uncommon coastal migrant and non-breeding visitor to the coast; rare inland

This species breeds on islands off the west coast of Britain, dispersing southwards in autumn and gale-driven birds can sometimes be seen off the Yorkshire coast at this time. In summer, pre-breeding wanderers are present in the North Sea and respond to tape luring
VC 61 It was a good year at Flamborough Head, with two's on 23rd and 31st July, and in August, two on 6th, three on 8th, one on 9th and one on 11th. There were singles in November on 17th and 19th. One flew north at Filey on 6th and two on 8th August. Spurn had seven records involving nine birds. The first single flew north on 7th August. Two singles flew north on 9th August and one came to investigate a tape on 10th August. Two more singles flew north on 20th August, when one was also seen at BPNR, and one flew north on 12th September. One passed north at Mappleton on 16th September. A very late bird flew north at Spurn on 6th December. Ringing sessions at Filey on the evenings of 15th July, 18th July and 2nd August trapped 13, four and two respectively. Just three were trapped at Flamborough this year.
VC 62 Singles passed Kettleness Point on 9th August and Long Nab on 9th September.

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* **A** 2,7,23,26,77
Amber list: rare to scarce coastal migrant, usually late autumn; rare inland

Breeds on remote islands off north and north-west Scotland and Ireland, although it is a common species, it usually feeds well offshore and Yorkshire records usually involve gale-driven birds.
VC 61 It was an exceptional year for this species due to the September gales. The first flew south at Flamborough Head on 20th August, with the next south on 10th September, when one passed south at Filey Brigg and two Spurn Point. On 15th, two were seen at Spurn, the precursor to the 16th, when birds passed north inshore at a number of coastal watch-points. Two were seen at Filey Brigg, six at Flamborough, 12 at Mappleton and 33 at Spurn Point. Just one was recorded the following day, at Spurn. Further singles flew north at Spurn on 24th and 27th September and five on 2nd October, when two also flew north at Atwick. In November, one flew south at Spurn on 5th and one north on 17th.
VC 62 Singles passed Cowbar, Kettleness Point and Staithes on 10th September.
VC 63 One was found on the main lake at Pugneys CP on 2nd October, which was the first record for the site (DP; SC; KP).
VC 65 A bird dropped in to Nosterfield NR at 1045 hrs on 17th September and remained there until 1700 hrs. Of particular note is that at one point during its stay it was chased by a Hobby *Falco subbuteo*, which it managed to relatively easily out fly! (SPW *et al.*).

GANNET *Morus bassanus* **A**
Amber list: uncommon but increasing breeder, fairly common offshore

Breeds in the North Atlantic, with 60% of the East Atlantic population nesting in Britain and Ireland. Migrates southwards after breeding. Breeds only at Flamborough and Bempton.
VC 61 At Bempton, 3480 apparently occupied nests (AON) were counted (2501 in 1998, 3498 in 2002 and 3940 in 2004), with productivity measured at 0.75/AON, about average. The first juveniles from Bempton

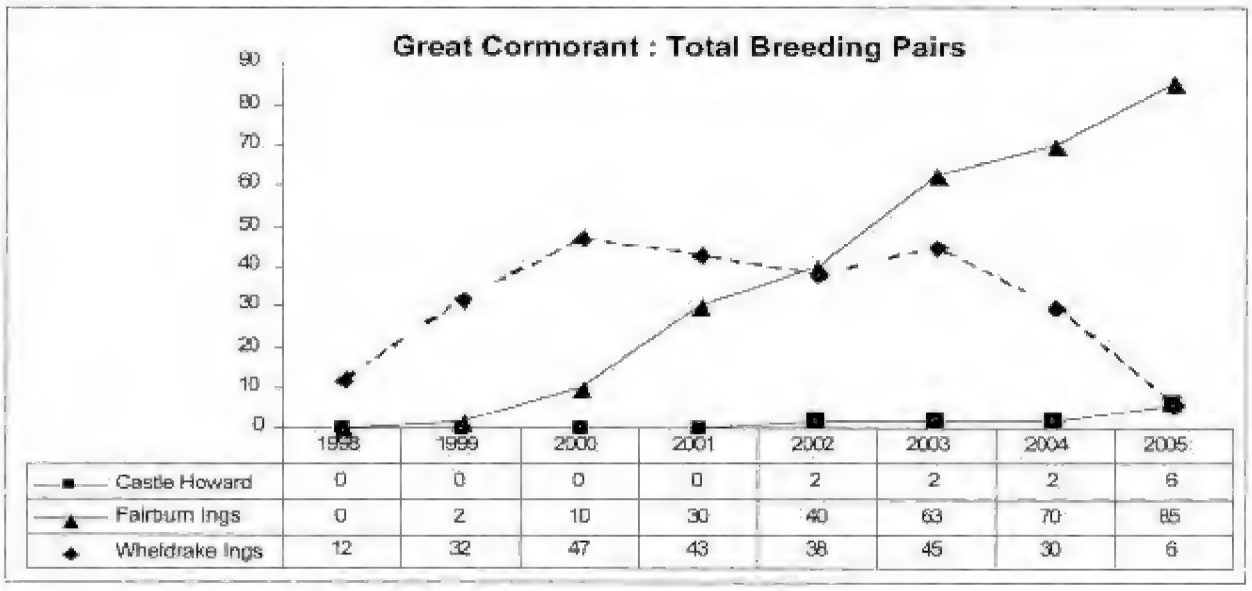
were noted at Filey on 25th June where the highest count was 1500 south in 3.5 hours on 31st August. The highest counts at Flamborough were 1424 on 22nd January, 1200 on 12th February, 3007 on 12th March, and 3150 on 13th October. Seen offshore throughout the year at Spurn, although only sporadically and in small numbers during the winter months. Highest counts were 609 on 8th August, 1000 on 1st October, and 640 on 3rd October. Inland, on 8th October a juvenile flew west over the M62 near Asselby, Goole and later over the mouth of the Derwent at Barmby. Juveniles were seen off Paull Holme Strays on that date and up to 15th, when 13 were seen.

VC 62 Present throughout the year though irregular in winter periods. The largest count was 1550 south past Long Nab on 31st August.

GREAT CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo* A

Amber list: scarce resident breeder; fairly common winter visitor and migrant. BBS 11/166

Nominate *carbo* breeds on the coasts of the North Atlantic, including the Yorkshire coast. Cormorants also breed at three inland sites in the county, and continental race *sinensis* constitute most if not all of this population. Non-breeding summering birds are also seen at many inland waters.



WeBS counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Bolton-on-Swale	35	24	18	10	1	1	0	8	7	-	-	-
Lingham lake	24	47	28	16	6	6	7	20	17	23	50	35
Hornsea Mere	113	74	161	116	143	165	83	116	34	78	148	117
North Humber	25	16	33	17	5	17	25	49	26	9	26	38
South Tees	11	16	27	9	11	50	62	131	121	48	73	82

VC 61 Continues to breed on the cliffs at Filey, although no census was attempted this year. Only six pairs were successful at Wheldrake Ings. High counts at Flamborough included 74 on 23rd July, 102 on 27th August, 87 on 3rd September and 91 on 13th October. The Atwick/Barmston maximum was 60 past on 10th August. Small numbers were seen occasionally at Spurn Point in every month, with numbers building up to 26 during the late summer as non-breeding birds congregated at Chalk Bank. Other maxima were 149 at Tophill Low in September and 27 at PHENR in November. Numbers counted on the Humber were generally lower than in 2004. The *sinensis* individual bearing the green ring '1LS' from the Danish colony at Vorso (10th June 2001) was still present at WNR on at least 2nd January.

VC 62 Regularly seen on the coast, with 29 pairs breeding at Hunt Cliff and 40 pairs at Boulby (same as 2004). Six pairs bred at Castle Howard Lake. Significant numbers can be found on the River Tees. All coastal birds seen close enough were Atlantic Cormorants *P. c. carbo*. Continental Cormorants *P. c. sinensis* were identified at Wykeham Lakes, with three on 15th May, one on 17th July. At Seamer Road Mere two were identified on 6th November.

VC 63 Common resident bird recorded regularly in various numbers at most stretches of water. The breeding population at Fairburn Ings RSPB is increasing dramatically with 182 nests counted in April and 216 birds noted there on 24th May. At Old Moor Wetlands RSPB there were 120 on 6th August, a new site maximum. The maximum count at Southfield Res was 65 on 14th October. In December, 28 were at Elland GP. Continental birds *P. c. sinensis* were seen there between 4th January and 13th April, with the maximum count being six.

VC 64 Reported from suitable waters throughout the area and some upper river systems in the Dales, with maximum counts: early winter – 28 at Farnham GP in January, 16 in February when 34 at Lindley Wood Res. Twenty were at Lindley Wood Res in July, with 55 there in September when 14 at Farnham GP and 13 at Staveley NR on 13th. At Farnham GP 13 in October and November with 22 in December when 20 at Chelker

Res. Birds of the form *sinensis* were identified as follows: one at Otley Wetland on 25th February, 12 at Lindley Wood Res on 3rd March, with one on 3rd and 5th April, and at least seven on 27th July and 6th August.
VC 65 Nosterfield NR had one to four birds in every month except June, with maximum of 12 in September. Roundhill Reservoir and Semer Water also occasionally had up to three birds.

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* A
Amber list: scarce coastal breeder; uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor

Breeds on rocky coats of the northeast Atlantic and Mediterranean, including northeast Yorkshire, with usually only local post-breeding dispersal. The most recent count at Bempton was 31 pairs in 2000, a decrease of 48% from 1987.
VC 61 Bred as usual at Bempton and Flamborough Head. A colour-ringed bird at Filey on 9th January had been ringed on 7th June 2003 on the Isle of May. Up to 24 wintered in Filey Bay. Peak counts at Flamborough were 186 on 16th January, 244 on 6th February and 182 on 12th November. There were nine records concerning twelve birds, from the coast between Barmston and Atwick, including four at Barmston on 20th June. A good series of records at Spurn early in the year was probably related to the Sand Eel crash that displaced Shags from their normal feeding grounds in search of more food. Recorded on 26 dates during the first three months with a high count of 16 on 25th January. Small numbers February to June and September/ October, more regular counts in November and early December and high counts of 10 on 17th November, and 20 on 6th December.
VC 62 Counts on the South Tees included 35 in January, 26 in February and 22 in May. The largest numbers at Scarborough were in January; 15 in South Bay on 19th, and a flock of 28 flying south off Scalby Ness on 26th. Relatively scarce in summer, with small autumn passage noted from late August, with a maximum of six on 20th November.
VC 63 One was at Lakeside, Doncaster from 6th to 13th March.

BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris* A 19,29,43,24,36
Red list and UK BAP species: rare breeding species and scarce but regular migrant and winter visitor

Although the 1970-2005 national trend has shown a decline, the small British breeding population is sustained by careful management, and has benefited from recent mild winters. Our winter visitors are augmented by continental immigrants. Four booming males were heard in the county, with probably three pairs nesting successfully, reflecting the recent national recovery.
VC 61 Booming was noted at two sites near the Humber, and it is thought to have bred at one. One was often noted at TLNR from 14th January to 22nd February, with two seen on 31st January. During this period one visited adjacent Watton NR. The third ever PHENR record was of one flushed from the waters edge 9th April. The second winter period sightings at TLNR began with a probable juvenile from 24th to 29th July and ended with an adult there from 22nd October to 8th November. One was reported at Hornsea Mere on 29th October, and one was observed at Brough Airfield Marsh on 11th November.
VC 62 One was at Coatham Marsh on 2nd February and another on 14th November.
VC 63 There were regular sightings of one bird roosting at Wintersett Res between 2nd January and 3rd March, with two birds confirmed there on 30th January and 6th February. A single was observed on five dates between 19th January and 12th February in the reed-bed at Pugneys CP. A single roosting bird in the Sheffield area was at Pit-house West between 4th January and 18th March and again there occasionally from 23rd October until 29th December. At Blacktoft Sands RSPB a single on 12th February, then two seen on 2nd March and regularly thereafter. Booming commenced on 24th March with a second bird booming for a week in early May. Birds were seen irregularly until July. In October there were five records between the 2nd and 24th. At Old Moor Wetlands RSPB a wintering bird was seen on several dates until 4th February and a single seen regularly from 7th November until the year end with two roosting together on 18th and 20th December. At Potteric Carr singles reported from 8th to 27th February, 26th July and one showed well on 15th November with two on 19th, three on 3rd December, five on 18th and a record six on 27th December. An early returning bird was seen in flight over the Top Res at Wintersett on 15th October and again on the 28th. There were no further sightings until 10th December when a bird was seen roosting in the reedbed at the Top Res, and what was presumably the same bird was seen again on 17th and 26th December. Singles were noted at Fairburn Ings RSPB on 21st March and 30th December and one was found roosting at Mickletown Ings on 31st December. Rother Valley CP had singles on 23rd October and 6th November with two roosting on 10th December and one roosting on 18th December.
VC 64 One was at Staveley NR on 2nd September.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta* A 48,36,57,36,71
Amber list: scarce visitor in increasing numbers; 251 previous records

Within Britain, its status has changed dramatically in recent years following a northwards expansion of its range in France. The species has established colonies in southern England and continues to expand its range.
VC 61 Birds flew south at The Narrows, Spurn on 3rd, 21st and 22nd May. Paull Holme Strays provided most of the year's records with 17 sightings between 22nd May and 9th October, with two seen together on 18th

June, 1st to 7th September and 11th and 12th September. A southerly passage in June saw two fly south over Easington, BPNR and Spurn on 2nd June, with one at BPNR on 3rd, and two south-east over Grimston on 17th. In July, one flew south at Spurn on 3rd, one flew east over Welton Waters on 10th and one was at Elvington and later North Duffield Carrs on 11th. One was seen periodically at Filey Dams between 16th July and 12th August. One at Leven Waterworks on 18th may have been the bird at PHENR on 23rd July that ended the day at Routh Pits (now Heron Lakes), where it remained until 25th, and it or another was at PHENR on 3rd August. Both Brough Airfield Marsh and BPNR held singles from 27th to 29th July, and two were at Bank Island also on 27th, one of these probably re-locating to Bubwith on 28th, where it remained between this site and North Duffield Carrs until 6th August. A juvenile was at Buckton on 27th July and it or another flew south at Flamborough on 29th. In August, singles were reported at Spurn on 4th, 6th and 9th and Flamborough on 6th. One seen at North Cave Wetlands on 6th August was later present from 17th to 29th August and again from 2nd to 14th September. TLNR and Watton NR shared one from 16th to 20th August with an isolated occurrence at the latter site on 1st September. One was on the Humber at Spurn on 30th and 31st August and a late bird there on 5th and 6th October.
VC 62 One flew south from Scalby Lodge Pond on 6th August.
VC 63 Two were at Rother Valley CP on 10th May and one there 29th July. In June one was present at Fairburn Ings RSPB from 2nd to 5th. Blacktoft Sands RSPB had three on 3rd, one was flushed from the river bank at Swillington Ings on 4th, one was at Pugneys CP on 5th, later heading south, and one flew over the river at Rodley NR on 8th. In July, one was at Leeshaw Res on 7th, and a juvenile that circled Anglers Country Park on the 23rd later arrived at Edderthorpe Flash and stayed until 25th - a different bird from that at Old Moor, where singles were reported from the 23rd to the 25th July and 8th and 9th August. One flew west at Southfield Res on 31st July and two showed at Topham Farm scrape from 2nd to 5th August. Further singles were at Blacktoft Sands on 3rd August and 23rd October. A single was at Firsby Res on 17th November and 31st December and one at Ravensfield and later at Denaby Ings also on 31st.
VC 64 One was at Cringles, near Silsden and possibly same at Addingham on 18th September. A single visited the River Ure from Ox Close to Newby Hall Ferry for three weeks from 2nd July. Presumed the same bird at Staveley NR on 23rd, Great Ouseburn on 30th and Bishop Monkton on 1st August.
VC 65 A bird in partial breeding plumage was at Nosterfield NR on 24th and 31st July and 5th August. One flew east at the same site on 6th November.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea* A
Uncommon resident breeder, winter visitor and passage migrant. BBS 42/166

BTO Heronries Census data shows the number of occupied nests was possibly down this year. Only 310 occupied nests were reported, which was down on 2004, but several sites were not visited, and a figure of 400+ nests seems more likely (450 were reported in 2002). BBS data appears to show this widespread Western Palearctic species is slowly increasing.
VC 61 At the only Hull Valley heronry, a minimum of 15-18 nests were occupied (BTO figures), although up to 52 appeared to be active on 3rd April (MGH: RL). No counts were reported from Asselby Island (17 nests in 2004), or Wheldrake Ings (33 nests in 2004). Migration was noted at Spurn, where between 2nd April and 19th October, a total of 70 flew south and 10 came in off the sea. A new day-record was 13 on 11th September.
VC 62 Occupied heronries (nests in brackets) were reported from Castle Howard (4), Dunscombe Park (4), Forge Valley (11), Grosmont (4), Hutton Rudby (28), Scampston Park Lake (5), Sleightholmedale (11), Thornton-le-Dale (7) and Wilton (4). No reports were received from Great Ayton.
VC 63 No breeding data was received this year from Hebden Bridge and Bretton Park but at the latter site in 2004 58 nests were noted. Elsewhere eight pairs bred at Fairburn Ings RSPB, one to two pairs at Elland GP, at least three young were raised from five nests at Luddenden Foot, and of the nine nests at Scammonden Dam, eight had a total of twelve young. Fairburn Ings RSPB regularly had a minimum of ten throughout the year with 25 in May the highest total. Small numbers were resident at Blackmoorfoot Res from April to October, with 18 in July the peak count; and eight to thirteen were frequently noted at Pugneys CP throughout the year. A maximum of 20 were recorded at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB during July. A melanistic bird was noted at Wintersett Res on 7th July and what was possibly the same bird was noted at Rodley NR on several dates in December.
VC 64 Bred at Holbeck Wood, where 18 present on 18th April, Rudding Park, three pairs and a new colony at Gouthwaite Res, five nests. At Askwith 40 nests produced 77 young and a private site had 17 pairs producing 50 young. The formerly productive site at Dob Park is now deserted. Twenty were at Hirstwood on 10th January with 12 on 24th, 10 at Bellflask Quarry on 12th, 12 at Newby Hall Weir on 5th April and 15 at Gouthwaite Res on 1st August. An all dark bird was at Lower Laithe Res on 9th July.
VC 65 Present all year in the Nosterfield area where up to six birds. A similar picture is also reflected at Bolton-on-Swale, and one or two records came from Semer Water. A small heronry near Downholme had three nests and five young were ringed.

PURPLE HERON *Ardea purpurea* A 0,0,0,0,2
Rare vagrant; 57 previous records (54 birds)

This visitor from southern Europe breeds just across the North Sea in the Netherlands, and spring occurrences of over-shooting birds had been almost annual until the last two seen in 2000.

VC 61 One managed to be very elusive whilst at Watton NR, Watton Carrs and neighbouring TLNR from 12th June to 3rd July being seen on five occasions by many observers (L&MB: MGH *et al.*).
VC 62 An adult was on Coatham Marsh on 27th and 28th May (JSt *et al.*).

WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia* AE
Scarce migrant; escapes from Harewood confuse status

Birds roaming from Harewood make difficult the understanding of true White Stork occurrences.
Records that are most likely to relate to birds of continental origin include one south over Healaugh on 13th April; one that flew in off the sea and up the Humber at Spurn on 29th April; one at Birk Brow, Guisborough on 1st May, also seen at Ingleby Barwick on 1st; one in off the sea at Saltburn on 9th June; one at Cayton Bay on 19th July and also at Flamborough Head from 21st to 23rd (this bird sported a white darvic ring); one seen at Etton on 8th September; one south at Dringhouses, York on 5th October, seen later that day and on 6th near the A1079, later at North Cave Wetlands and at Low Catton Ings on 7th. Possibly the same bird flew over Atwick and Ulrome on 15th October, later remaining at Carnaby until 19th December, on which date it was also seen at Fraisthorpe.
Singles at Otley Wetland on 21st April, Arthington on 25th, Leadley area on 14th and 15th May, Lightwater Valley also on 15th, Burley on 17th and Follifoot on 21st June and over Swillington Ings on 4th October and 13th November, and Fairburn Ings RSPB on 5th October are more likely to be Harewood birds.

BLACK STORK *Ciconia nigra* A 0,1,0,0,1
Vagrant; 9 previous records

This migratory species breeds from central Iberia through central Europe to Russia and Siberia, with small numbers in Greece and Turkey, wintering in Africa and South Asia.
VC 61 One was seen soaring over Easington on 7th August, before drifting south (AJS: MFS).

(EURASIAN) SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia* A 16,25,28,13,8
Amber list: scarce migrant and summer visitor April-Sept

Breeds in South-East Europe with outposts in Spain and the Netherlands, where its population and has recently increased. For the first time in over 300 years, a pair nested in the UK in 1998. A few mobile birds may account for many of each year's county records.
VC 61 An immature flew north at Spurn and out to sea on 5th May. One also flew north at BPNR on 5th May. One flew north at Easington Long Bank in 13th May and it or another flew into PHENR on the afternoon of 13th May, bearing Dutch rings: 'DD' both legs. It was the second record there, the first being on 1st May 1996. It was then seen at TLNR on 15th, departing the same day, when one was seen at Hornsea Mere. Another one (also reported as being ringed, was at Paull Holme Strays from 14th to 17th May. One flew north at Spurn on 29th May and one was on Sunk Island on 26th June.
VC 63 One was flushed from St Aidan's Swillington Ings early on 19th May flying off strongly in a southerly direction (PRM). One was at Blacktoft Sands RSPB from 11th July until 3rd August.

HONEY-BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus* A 9,14,20,15,17
Amber list: rare breeder and scarce migrant May-Sept

This long-distance migrant breeds from temperate Europe east to western Asia, usually arriving mid- to late May, and leaving from mid-August after a short breeding season. There is a small British breeding population, but passage birds can include continental migrants. Possibly four pairs were present in the county, with breeding confirmed from one site.
VC 61 One flew over Tophill Low on 20th August (MGH), one over Bank Island, Wheldrake on 2nd September (RSS) and another flew south over Atwick on 6th September (WFC).
VC 62 Present in a breeding area in North Yorkshire from 19th May. A total of seven adults were seen through the summer, three pairs and an additional female. One pair successfully fledged two juveniles, one of which was last recorded on 14th September. A third chick from this nest was found dead under the nesting tree. Another juvenile recorded on 3rd/4th August suggested a second pair had been successful. The last sighting of an adult was on 7th September. Confirmed migrants included one in-off at the Sea Life Centre, Scarborough on 3rd May (RBa) and one over Skelton Castle on 8th September (DAM).
VC 63 One was seen over Blackmoorfoot Res on 2nd August (PB).
VC 64 One was over Gouthwaite Res on 27th August (PJC).

BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans* A 0,1,0,0,1
Rare migrant: 18 previous records

Breeds throughout continental Europe, with good populations in Spain, France and Germany, and winters in Africa and north-west India. Also breeds through Russia to Siberia, with other races present in Africa, India, SE Asia and Australia. The last two Yorkshire records were in 1997 and 2002.
VC 64 An adult was seen at Barden Scale on 26th June (AG: MTa).

RED KITE *Milvus milvus* **AC**

Amber list: scarce introduced breeder and visitor from introduction schemes.

In the summer of 1999, 21 young Red Kites were released into the wild on Harewood Estate. In 2000 a single pair fledged two young and by 2001, no fewer than eight pairs reared at least 15 young. Further releases occurred each year until 2003, bringing the total released to 69, and radio-tracking showed early dispersal to areas such as the Yorkshire Wolds. By 2004, 27 territorial pairs were established, of which 19 were successful. In 2005, 40 territorial pairs were located in the county: - 33 breeding pairs, 28 successful. 52 young were raised, averaging 1.85 per successful pair. The number of pairs showed an increase, as did the geographical spread, although the number of young raised did not increase. This may be due to the number of inexperienced first-time breeders (12). Birds which bred early tended to be more successful. Of five pairs in East Yorkshire only one was successful, raising one young. An attack by a female Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* that was driven off was witnessed at the long-standing site that subsequently failed.

Two birds that moved out of Yorkshire were re-located elsewhere in England. A long-standing absentee was found at a previously unchecked location in Northamptonshire. It was in the company of several birds from the English Midlands release project and it probably bred there in 2004 and did so in 2005. Another record also involved Northamptonshire, this time a 2004 Yorkshire bird.

First confirmed immigration was in late July/early August 2005 when three birds were seen and identified in Wharfedale. Two were from the Northern Kites release site in the Derwent valley to the west of Gateshead, being two of their first release of 20 birds in 2004. One returned to its release area whilst the other, a radio-tagged bird, settled in a location to the east of Harrogate from 22nd August to the year end. The third was from North Scotland. It was raised in a nest in Ross-shire in 2004 and its sighting in Wharfedale on 3rd August was the first since it was last seen on its home ground on 05/12/04 (*per* D J Simpson).

VC 61 There were surprisingly few records away from five breeding sites. There were four records from the Lower Derwent valley in spring. In May, one flew north-west over Bridlington on 12th, one over Filey on 28th and one over Skeffling on 31st. One was at Flamborough on 29th September.

VC 62 There were four records from the wider Scarborough area: on 13th April, 27th April, 21st May and 8th June. Birds were also reported from Slingsby on 27th May, Saltburn on 12th July, Bransdale on 19th August, and Escrick and Hinderwell.

VC 63 Singles were reported from Rawmarsh on 12th January, River Don Valley, Penistone, 10th March, Ewden, 21st May, Oughtibridge, 22nd May, Old Moor Wetlands RSPB, 29th of May and 31st October, Hoyland, 10th June, Midhope Moor watchpoint, 24th September and Sprotborough Flash on 18th December. Single birds were also noted at Fairburn Ings RSPB on 23rd and 25th March, 3rd, 7th, and from 21st to 22nd May. One flew east over Fly Flatts on 21st March, with single birds at Swillington Ings on 19th and 26th March and 11th and 17th July.

VC 64 Two breeding records both from the Harrogate area. One reared a single chick whilst the other hatched young died in the nest. The majority of records were of single birds with 75 reports from the Harrogate area, with birds at Staveley NR on nine occasions between January and July and almost 200 from the BOG area, however most of these were from the Barden Scale watch point.

VC 65 Single birds were Nosterfield NR on 3rd January, Leighton Res on 8th March, Lingham Lake on 15th May and Binsoe on 4th September.

White-tailed Eagle

WHITE-TAILED EAGLE *Haliaeetus albicilla* A 0,0,0,0,1

Red list: rare migrant; 41 previous records (36 birds)

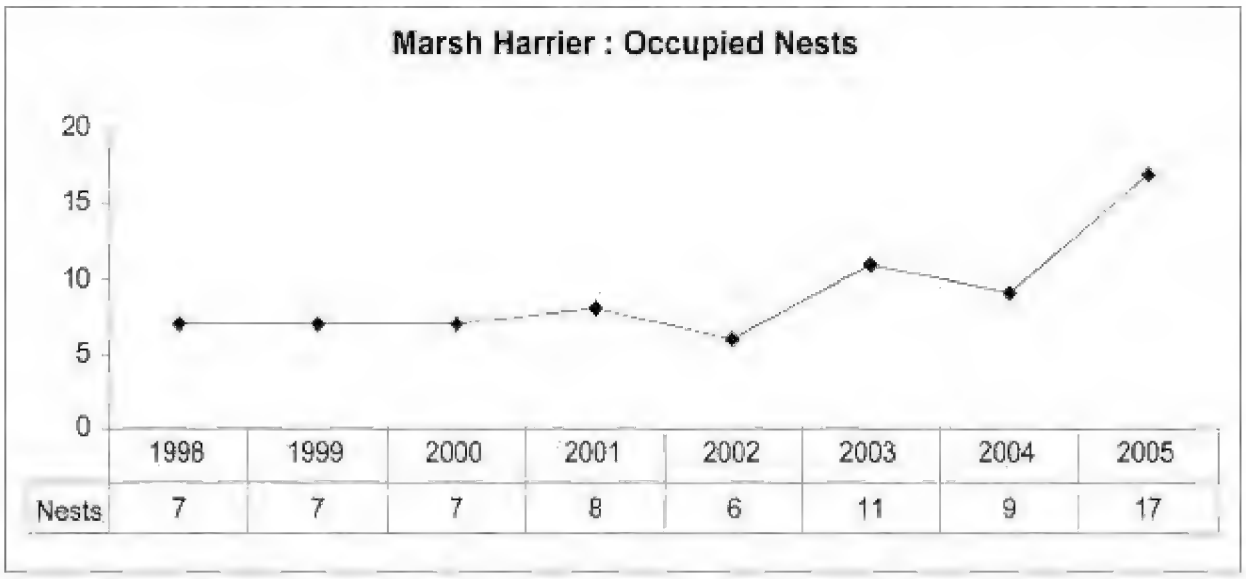
Breeds from Iceland to eastern Asia, with a re-introduced population in west Scotland. Last seen in the county in 1999. *The records of an immature reported in 1994 from Fairburn Ings, Wheldrake Ings and Bempton Cliffs have not yet been submitted to BBRC or the YNU.*

VC 63 Presumed the same bird was seen at Langsett on 27th February (JHI *et al.*), at Potteric Carr (ARh) and over Doncaster on 8th March (LJD).

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus* A

Amber list: scarce but increasing breeder; uncommon migrant. BBS 3/166

This opportunistic species has increased in numbers in the county, and although most migrate south, some as far as southern Africa, a few birds now over-winter. The breeding survey conducted this year showed 12 breeding males, 17 breeding females, and a minimum of 28 young fledged from 17 nests, all in the east of the county, with four, possibly five, polygamous males.



	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Nests	7	7	7	8	6	11	9	17

VC 61 Pairs bred at Barmston (polygamous male and two females producing one young from each nest); Broomfleet (polygamous male and two females, with two young from one nest and the success of other unknown); Haverfield Pits (two pairs and at least one young from one nest, other unknown); PHENR (one pair and three young) and Whitton Sands (three or four polygamous males, and four of six nests successfully producing 12 young). Birds were recorded widely throughout the VC. One was at North Duffield Carrs and later Holme-on-Spalding Moor on 8th February. Later in the year, there were multiple records from LDNNR, Hornsea Mere, North Cave Wetlands, Paull Holme Strays, Tophill Low and Welton Waters. Seven individuals were recorded at Filey this year from 24th April to 4th September, with the latter the only autumn record. Ten were recorded at Flamborough, one in spring and the rest late summer/early autumn. The first migrant at Spurn flew south on 31st March with a further 37 south to 29th May. The final spring bird/day total was 49, including two that came in and seven north on 19th June. The autumn bird/day total was 54 between 14th July and 7th November, with most of these flying south. Up to ten birds wintered on Whitton Sands.

VC 62 There were nineteen records from the area between 2nd April and 7th September, with regular sightings from Scaling Dam Res where a female and two juveniles were present in August. A female and a juvenile were hunting over Wykeham Ings on 31st July.

VC 63 The recent upturn in this species fortunes is reflected by the abundance of records especially at Swillington Ings where newly created habitat has enabled non-breeding birds to summer. A female at Fairburn Ings RSPB on 9th and 10th April was the first for the year with up to two birds seen regularly from mid month to 1st June. Two were seen on 6th August with further sightings of six migrants during September. Single migrants were also noted at Anglers CP. on 13th and 14th May and at Green Withens Clough on 11th September. At Swillington Ings, it was difficult to know how many birds were involved, but at least ten different individuals were recorded from 22nd April until 2nd October with four seen together during August. Late single birds were also observed from 27th October to 1st November and 10th December. At Blacktoft Sands recorded in all months with up to five present in both winter periods. Four females were nesting building there in April and three pairs made nesting attempts, two of which were successful with five young fledged. Another pair bred near Goole rearing three young. Elsewhere, singles recorded intermittently at nine other sites between March and December, the last being at Southfield Res on 12th December and *c.*5 were on Thorne Moors NNR on 30th August with three there on 13th October.

VC 64 Singles were seen at Barden Scale on 21st April and 1st May and Bishop Monkton Ings on 21st April and 8th May. A female was at Grimwith Res on 5th May and four passed through Staveley NR on 14th, 18th, 22nd and 31st. One was at Barden Scale on 22nd July and 21st August with a cream-crown at Langbar on 30th. A cream-crown was at Staveley NR on 12th September and another at Barden Scale on 12th.

VC 65 Lingham Lake had a first-summer male on 8th May with a full adult male on 25th and 26th June and a cream-crowned bird on 6th August. Nosterfield NR had records of juveniles on 7th and 16th August.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus* **A**
Red list: rare breeder; uncommon to scarce migrant and winter visitor

One pair bred in the county, being only the fourth successful attempt in the YDUBSA since 1996. Nesting attempts in recent years, from 1998 inclusive, are 0,1,3,1,1,6,0. At the nest site area there were occasional sightings of two females in early spring, one adult plus one first year. A late nesting attempt was made by a first-year female and a first-year (brown) male, with five eggs laid, five hatched and four young reared. Unfortunately, the breeding area has the highest incidence of suspected illegal Hen Harrier persecution in England.
VC 61 A male was seen at Welton Waters on 1st January. Three different birds were seen in the first three months at Easington Long Bank, with singles at Holmpton on 29th January, Hornsea Mere on 6th and Bewholme on 7th February, Weaverthorpe on 3rd March, two at Welwick on 13th March, singles at North Cave Wetlands on 25th March and 5th April, Easington on 7th May, Gransmoor and Lowthorpe on 8th May, South Cave on 16th May, Foston on the Wolds on 16th September, Filey Dams on 21st October, Easington Long Bank from 15th October to the year-end, Bubwith Ings on 3rd November, Grimston on 7th November and Welton on 17th December. Spurn was, however, the most regular site for this species in the VC. Males were noted on 21st and 24th March, a single flew south on 18th April followed by a male on 15th May. A single with a blue wing-tag on its right wing flew west on 21st May. In the autumn birds were seen on 4th and 27th October, 1st, 8th, 9th, 16th, 20th (two) and 22nd November. Six were seen at Flamborough, two in spring and four in autumn.
VC 62 Single birds were reported from Bransdale in February, Scaling Dam Res in March, Willerby Carr and Guisborough in April, Scaling Dam on 24th May, Scalby on 4th October, Star Carr on 9th October, this bird being seen several times in the Cayton/Star/Flixton Carr area to 26th October, with two (one juvenile) seen there on 7th and 13th November. In Glaisdale, two were present on 17th September and one in October. In Ryedale single males were at Rudland on 17th and Bonfield Ghyll on 26th November and again at Rudland on 2nd December. Also in December, single ringtails were at Scaling Dam on 11th, in-off the sea at Sandsend on 23rd and near Gillamoor on 27th.
VC 63 Considered a poor year in the Halifax area with only 12 records compared to 20 in 2004 and 54 in 2003. At an undisclosed location a male was observed on 30th January, a female on 16th February, a juvenile female on 3rd September and 9th October and a ringtail on various dates from 23rd October to 4th December. During January there were regular counts of five roosting at Blacktoft Sands RSPB , which involved a minimum of seven individuals. At this site up to four were present regularly through February and March with three on 7th April and last of the Spring on 9th May. On Thorne Moors NNR singles were seen in January, September and October with two present on 29th October. The first returning bird of the autumn was at Blacktoft Sands on 9th August, with one the next day at Midhope Moor watch point. Blacktoft then had singles on 24th September and 23rd October with birds regularly roosting from early November. The roost contained a maximum of four on several dates but a minimum of six birds involved. A first year female wing-tagged bird from Langholm in Dumfriesshire was present at the roost from the 2nd December until year end. Elsewhere a juvenile male was at Withens Clough on 29th September, a ringtail flew over Scammonden on 27th October and a female flew south west at Norton Tower-Roils Head on 19th December. A sub adult male flew west at Swillington Ings on 9th October and a ringtail seen on 15th November flew west the following day.
VC 64 Ring-tails were recorded at Barden Scale on nine dates to end of March and four dates in April/May with an adult male on 23rd and 25th. Single females were at Gouthwaite Res on 26th February, Bellflask Quarry on 8th April with two at Gouthwaite Res on 27th. A ring-tail was at Timble Ings on 3rd May and possible the same bird at Hanging Moor on the following two days. Singles were at Hegshaw Moor on 7th July, Barden Scale on 15th August (with two on 24th September when one at Gouthwaite Res) and at Staveley NR on 27th September. In October a single was at Gouthwaite Res on 9th and a ringtail at Grassington Moor on 31st, with up to four birds, including two males, at Timble Ings at the month end and into early November. Singles were at Denton Moor on 6th November, Barden Viewpoint on 12th, 13th, 16th, 20th, Dallowgill Moor on 18th, and in December at Snowden Moor on 4th, Gouthwaite Res on 7th and Barden Viewpoint on 15th.
VC 65 A pair bred successfully in the VC fledging four young from five eggs (PVI: SPW). An immature male was at Roundhill Res. on 3rd January and a female at Breary Banks on 8th February.

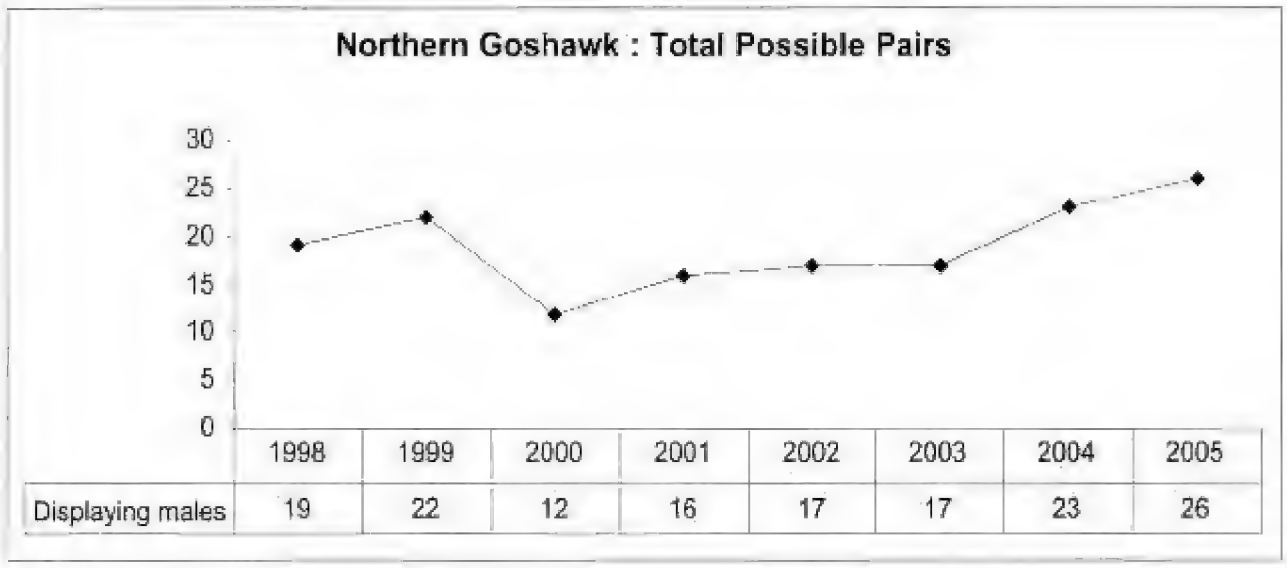
MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus* **A** 13,9,7,6,11
Amber list: rare to scarce migrant: has bred

The rarest and most migratory of Britain's three breeding species of harrier, the national population has recovered from just on pair in 1975 to about a dozen today. It breeds from north-west Europe east to Siberia wintering south of the Sahara. It is a rare spring and autumn migrant in the county, although each year there is a small number of unconfirmed reports.
VC 61 Ringtails were seen at Flamborough Head on 8th, 19th and 29th May and at Long Bank, Easington on 21st and 22nd May (GCT *et al.*), a first-summer male was seen at Spurn on 21st May (PC *et al.*), a ringtail was seen at Kilham on 15th and presumably the same individual just south of Driffield on several dates in late June including 23rd (CCT *et al.*), and a male between Brandesburton and North Frodingham on 29th June (PB). A ringtail was over Easington Long Bank on 13th August (GCT *et al.*).
VC 63 Second-year male was Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 20th May and a probable first-year bird with rufous underparts flew west at Southfield Res 23rd May.
VC 64 A first-summer male was over Barden Scale on 9th July (AGG: JHI: GH: BV).

GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis* AC

Scarce resident breeder and passage migrant

Between 16 and 26 pairs probably breed in the county, based in part on observations of displaying males, but only two reports were received from South Yorkshire, where there has been a severe decline in fortunes in recent years. The population seems to be increasing, with the declines in the west and south compensated by increases in the north and east.



	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Displaying males	19	22	12	16	17	17	23	26

VC 61 Displaying birds noted at two sites, with birds reported from a third site in the breeding season. There were frequent reports from Tophill Low and up to three seen near South Cave. A female seen well on 23rd January at North Cave Wetlands was only the second reserve record, and one was reported there on 6th March. Others were recorded at Bank Island on 15th January, North Duffield Carrs on 3rd February and 26th November, Atwick on 24th August and North Cliffe Woods on 11th September.
VC 62 A displaying male was seen at a site near York on 16th May. Sixteen pairs were recorded in the North York Moors, 11 of which successfully reared 25 young. This was an increase of one pair from 2004.
VC 63 One was seen around the fields to the west of Anglers CP on 22nd March where it caught a Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*. A female flew north-west over Blacker Hill, Hoyland on 8th September and a male was near Stainton on 22nd October. Reported breeding at two sites.
VC 64 Bradford four sites with displaying males, and one in the Harrogate district. Last proven breeding in 2000. A single was at Gouthwaite Res on 7th April. There was no evidence of breeding despite sightings of displaying males and females at different sites in the spring. Singles were reported at Otley Wetland on 21st April, Farnley Lake on 7th May, Stainburn Moor on 24th September and Arncliffe on 30th.
VC 65 A single spiralled up high before plunging in a near vertical dive at Lingham Lake, a further record from that site was of a male south on 2nd April. A female was at High Batts NR on 9th April.

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus* A

Fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 20/166

The population of this widespread but probably under-reported species is now static or still increasing slowly.
VC 61 Regularly noted at a wide variety of sites, throughout the year. Three pairs bred at TLNR. Seen throughout the year at Spurn, birds starting to pass through in March, and a total of 33 was seen to fly south between 3rd April and 10th June. At least 66 flew south in autumn, with the largest counts being five on 13th September and seven on 20th October. The highest day-count was nine on 11th September.
VC 62 A widespread breeding bird. Possible northward-moving migrants were noted at Boulby on 3rd May.
VC 63 Good breeding population and observed in small numbers in rural and urban locations.
VC 64 Despite many records in the BOG area, there were only five breeding records. It is very much under-recorded from the urban areas unlike the Harrogate area where it was 'not uncommon in suburban gardens' as well as throughout the district, but no breeding reports.
VC 65 Thinly scattered across the VC. One caught a Redwing *Turdus iliacus* at High Batts on 19th November.

COMMON BUZZARD *Buteo buteo* A

Uncommon resident breeder; scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 10/166

The breeding population is increasing and it has expanded its range eastwards markedly in the last 10 years, particularly on The Wolds and in VC 62 where it is now consolidating. A passage was noted on 18th September.
VC 61 Now resident in woodland, especially along the western Wolds escarpment from South Cave north to Staxton, and pairs were also seen at Hornsea Mere and Burton Constable where it may breed. A minimum of nine pairs resident in the Hull Valley WG recording area, and the VC population probably exceeds 20 pairs. Five birds were displaying in the LDNNR, (where 62 records), with breeding proven at Thorganby and

Elvington, and it also breeds along the ridge between North Cave and South Cliffe, with up to a dozen birds seen in the air together during fine autumn days. From coastal watch points, Filey had four sightings this year: singles on 3rd April, 18th April, 20th May and 6th December, sixteen were reported from Flamborough, including eight over the Outer Head on 22nd April; singles were noted at Spurn on 23rd and 25th March, 27th April and 5th May, but there were only three autumn records from Spurn. Three also passed over Atwick, including two in September, and 12 passed over Tophill Low on 18th September.
VC 62 Present throughout the year in the Carrs where three or four pairs nested. Several pairs were again present along the Wolds escarpment south of the A64. Present around Hackness, with four birds displaying there on 6th March. An increase in sightings from Wykeham Forest was also noted, with up to four individuals in May. Also seen at Scampston in April, Lower Bransdale in April and May, Dalby Forest in May, and a possible summering bird in the Guisborough area in June. The largest counts were of 15 in the Wykeham Ings/Sherburn area on 5th March and the same number in the Ganton/Heslerton area on 18th September.
VC 63 Sightings have become more frequent at most sites within the VC with breeding now being suspected at a few locations. Birds are now resident in the Fairburn area with up to six seen frequently and at Swillington Ings singles were seen regularly, with at least six birds were feeding on the hillside behind Astley Lake during September. Southfield Res had its best year to date with thirteen records, all of single birds, between January and November. Elsewhere, recorded sporadically though the population appears to be increasing. A family party of five was seen over Potteric Carr in August and seven were over Throstle Nest Farm on 7th September.
VC 64 61 territories were recorded in the YDUBSA to 2003, with a potential 250 pairs, but although an increase has been recorded, persecution may still be limiting its population total in this area (*Court, Irving and Jowett, 2006*). Breeding pairs were reported from Bellflask Quarry, Bishop Thornton and another nearby, Denton Moor, Dob Park, Hackfall Woods, Howgill, two pairs at Hunsingore and Rudding Estate, Staveley, Timble Ings, with four pairs in Wharfedale raising six young and three pairs in the Washburn Valley raising seven young. Possibly bred at Allerton Park, Gill Wood, Lower Crimple Valley, and Sharow. Presumed territorial birds were seen in the dales at Arncliffe, Cowside, Gargrave, Halton Gill, Kilnsey, Langstrothdale (two sites) and Malham. Barden had double figures in most months except July, October and December with 18 on 6th September. It is now noticed on the outskirts of urban areas around Shipley Glen and Thornton. Other records: two at Farnley Lake on 22nd February, four at Lindley Wood Res on 5th, ten at Gouthwaite Res on 6th, three at Water's Laithe on 12th April and at Lindley Wood/Dob Park on 15th, six at Denton Moor on 8th August, eight left the roost at Little Ribston on 23rd, seven at Beamsley on 30th with five at Farnley Lake on 24th, four at Darnbrook Fell on 25th. Ten at Gouthwaite Res on 9th October. Also reported from Thorlby and Stirton.
VC 65 The Nosterfield area recorded birds regularly throughout the year up to a maximum of six. Two pairs bred in woods near West Tanfield. Birds were also seen regularly on high ground but their breeding success was low with relatively few young reared in the southern part of the VC. In the Catterick area six pairs fledged 18 young all of which were ringed.

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo lagopus* **A** 5,2,4,5,2
Rare migrant and winter visitor

This species breeds in the arctic and subarctic zones from Scandinavia eastwards through Asia and North America, and winters in small numbers in Britain. Occasional birds occur at regular moorland haunts.
VC 61 One came in off the sea at Wire Dump at 1245 on 5th May, later flying north over the Triangle and Easington Long Bank (AAH *et al.*).
VC 64 A juvenile was seen over Gouthwaite Res on 12th February (PVI: IRC) and presumed the same juvenile on 1st April (IW).

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus* **A** 82,79,97,75,112
Amber list: scarce but regular passage migrant

The north-west European population of this widely distributed species is migratory, wintering in West Africa. Ringing recoveries would suggest that Scandinavian as well as Scottish birds pass through the county.
VC 61 The first was over Thorganby on 23rd March, with the next on 8th April over Elvington. Singles were then recorded in May at Spurn on 3rd, 19th 22nd and 28th, at North Cave Wetlands on 8th and Filey on 22nd, and one was seen during the first week of May at Old Howe, Foston Beck. June saw singles at BPNR on 9h and Spurn on 11th, with singles in July over Brigham on 17th and Catwick on 31st. In autumn, singles were seen over Wheldrake on 15th August, Spurn and Flamborough on 26th, at TLNR on 26th, 28th and 29th August and one followed the River Hull south past PHENR on 27th. In September singles flew over Spurn on 7th, 9th and 17th, TLNR on 8th and 9th, past Brough Haven on 17th and over Hornsea Mere on 27th.
VC 62 Just three were reported away from Scaling Dam: one in the Ellerburn Valley on 10th April, one south over Kirbymoorside on 30th August and one south over Scalby Village on 27th September. At Scaling Dam, probably the same lingering individual was reported on 25th to 26th July, 1st to 2nd, 10th and 17th August
VC 63 First was at Deer Hill Res on 20th March, the next at Langsett Res on 23rd March and the last were singles flying south at Oxenhope on 20th and Rod Moor 27th September, but a late bird flew south at Wintersett on 10th October. In April, singles were at Leeshaw Res on 15th and 21st and Thornton Moor

Res on 19th May and 30th August. A number of records came from across the south of the VC between March and September, some seeming to be of birds observed at different locations as they moved through. Available records suggest one bird in March, four in April. ten in May, two in June, one in July, four in August and three in September. At Blacktoft Sands RSPB there were six singles on dates from 1st April to 22nd August, none appearing to coincide with records elsewhere within the VC.
VC 64 The first birds were at Gouthwaite Res and Thruscross Res on 23rd March then in April at Barden on 6th, Farnham GP and Bellflask Quarry on 9th, Ripon on 12th, Oxenhope on 13th, Snaygill SW on 21st and Harlow Carr gardens on 29th. In May, singles (unless stated) were at Farnham GP and Hay-a-Park on 5th, Buckden Pike on 6th, two at Barden on 9th, Nicholson's Lagoon, Ripon on 14th, two at Barden between 15th and 20th, Grimwith Res on 17th, Barden Moor on 19th, Barden Bridge on 25th, Staveley NR on 28th and Fewston Res on 31st. In June singles at Barden from the 4th June, Beamsley on 13th, Barden on 14th, Bellflask Quarry and Ripon on 19th and Barden on 25th and 31st. In July birds were at Ripon Parks on 15th and 16th, and Nicholson's Lagoon, Ripon, on 24th. In August, singles at Barden on 1st and 2nd, Bellflask Quarry on 3rd and 5th, Barden on 21st, Dallowgill on 23rd, Harlow Carr gardens on 24th and Gouthwaite Res on 27th. One at Staveley NR on 6th September and one at Bishop Thornton remained for two weeks in early November.
VC 65 Lingham Lake had a good run of spring records: a single flew east carrying a fish on 15th May, two flew north and a single went south on 22nd May, with two there on 25th May. In autumn, one was over High Batts NE on 3rd August and single was at Nosterfield NR on 3rd September.

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus* A

Amber list: fairly common resident and passage migrant.
BBS 48/166: 17% (-5) increase 1994-2005, 117% increase (12) 2004-5

Yorkshire has bucked the national trend of decline for this species, and a significant increase was again noted this year.
VC 61 Present at Spurn daily throughout the year, usually one or two, but a southerly passage between 14th March and 4th June totalled 39 birds, with a maximum count of six on 3rd April. At least 110 birds flew south between 7th September and 12th November, with high counts of 12 on 7th September and 11 on 14th, 17 on 1st October and 11 on 20th. Autumn passage at Flamborough included 13 on 7th and 8 on 11th and 15th.
VC 62 Described as widespread throughout the Scarborough District.
VC 63 Common resident breeding bird, with 14 hunting over Swillington Ings during September the highest count received. At Old Moor Wetlands RSPB five pairs held territory, three of which were confirmed to be successful with at least ten young fledging. Also noted at Luddenden Dene and Leeshaw.
VC 64 Under-recorded throughout the VC with the only count of 12 at Barden in August. Breeding reported from both nest boxes and natural sites. Three pairs at Staveley NR, one at Haverah Park, one at Brimham Rocks, four young and Whixley had two broods of four and three. Nest boxes at three other locations produced 13 young and natural sites at Leeming, Dob Park, Weston, Howgill Wood and Denton produced at least 21 fledged young.
VC 65 Widespread and seen regularly at well-watched sites. In the Catterick area 39 *pulli* were ringed in boxes. A bird ringed at Boston Res, Catterick (one of a brood of five) hit a car window 220 km away 155 days later in Much Wenlock, Shropshire. At Flask's Lake a male Kestrel was observed using an unusual hunting technique to search for Little Ringed Plover chicks. Attracted by the adults' distraction displays, the Kestrel dropped to the ground, ignored the frantic adults and proceeded to walk around head held low intently scanning the area. It did this for several minutes thoroughly covering the immediate area. It found no chicks, having already presumably cleared out this freshly hatched brood (SPW).

MERLIN *Falco columbarius* A

Amber list: scarce resident breeder; uncommon passage migrant/ winter visitor

Breeding data for this moorland-nesting species is very incomplete. Probably between 25 and 85/90 pairs breed. Six pairs bred in the Harrogate area but several chicks died well grown in the nest. Eight young successfully fledged. Seven to eight pairs nested in the South Pennines and twelve pairs in the Bradford area, with three failing but the others reared 33 young. 60-80 pairs were found in YDUBSA in 1993-94, the last full survey, and extrapolating from this, there may still be 45-50 pairs, including the Bradford and Harrogate birds, present. The North York Moors were not surveyed, although 39 occupied sites were found in 1991 (Nattrass and Downing, 1991), between 7 and 16 nests per year located between 2000 and 2005 (Marchant, 2007), but an estimated 40 pairs were present in 2003.
VC 61 Wintering and passage birds were recorded, with the last of winter usually in May and the first of autumn in August. Singles were seen at Winestead on 8th January and Atwick on 1st February. Reported from Filey on 20th March, 20th April, 1st and 2nd May, 5th and 10th August, almost daily between 5th and 17th September and between 27th October and 1st November and another from mid-November through to 10th December at least. At Spurn, singles were seen regularly from January to May, with passage noted from March. Ten birds appeared to move south between 16th March and 20th May. One was present on 31st July, with birds seen regularly from early August to mid-November, with the occasional single to the year end. Seventeen flew south between 7th September and 8th November. Also reported from Barmston, Holmpton,

Hornsea Mere, Patrington, Paull, South Cave and North Cave Wetlands where singles seen on from January to 5th May, August and December. Juveniles were at Barmston on 13th and TLNR on 22nd August.
VC 62 Away from the North York Moors, scarce for much of the year in the Scarborough area, just four sightings in the first half and 11 reports in the latter half.
VC 63 In the first half of the year single birds were seen at Beal Carrs, Fairburn Ings RSPB, Swillington Ings and the Wintersett area from January into April with two records from the Swillington area on 2nd and 20th May and passage noted at Denholme Clough, Soil Hill and Thornton. At Blacktoft Sands RSPB birds were regularly present at an evening roost until the 11th April. A survey of the South Pennines found seven possibly eight pairs in April and May with one pair raising two young. Single birds started to appear from 25th August when one was seen at Anglers CP with further sightings there until 12th November. One was at Fairburn Ings RSPB from 7th October to 11th October and 25th November, and a male was at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 12th October. Birds were present at Blacktoft from 9th September with up to two regularly present and the three were present on 31st December and singles at Beal Carrs briefly in October and November.
VC 64 BOG area – in the main breeding area nine pairs were located of which six fledged 22 young. Elsewhere two pairs raised four and three young and a pair re-laid after predation and raised four young. Away from the breeding areas passage birds were observed at Denton, Otley Wetland and Morley SW. Harrogate area – at least six pairs in the upper dales. Two pairs at one locality each had four eggs but productivity was poor. Three were found dead in one nest, possibly due to bad weather and two birds disappeared from the second nest whilst three fledged. Three other pairs had broods of one; two and two and a fourth pair was not located. Interestingly 17 out of 18 birds ringed on moors north of Ilkley were females. Elsewhere, records from nine sites between January and April and 12 sites between August and December.
VC 65 On high ground in the southern part of the VC, three pairs fledged broods of 2, 2 and 1 with the nest of a fourth pair not located. The poor success was undoubtedly due to bad weather. A bird was chasing Sand Martins at Nosterfield NR on 20th August with presumably the same bird chasing House Martins at Lingham Lake the next day.

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo* A
Scarce breeding summer visitor, scarce to uncommon passage migrant

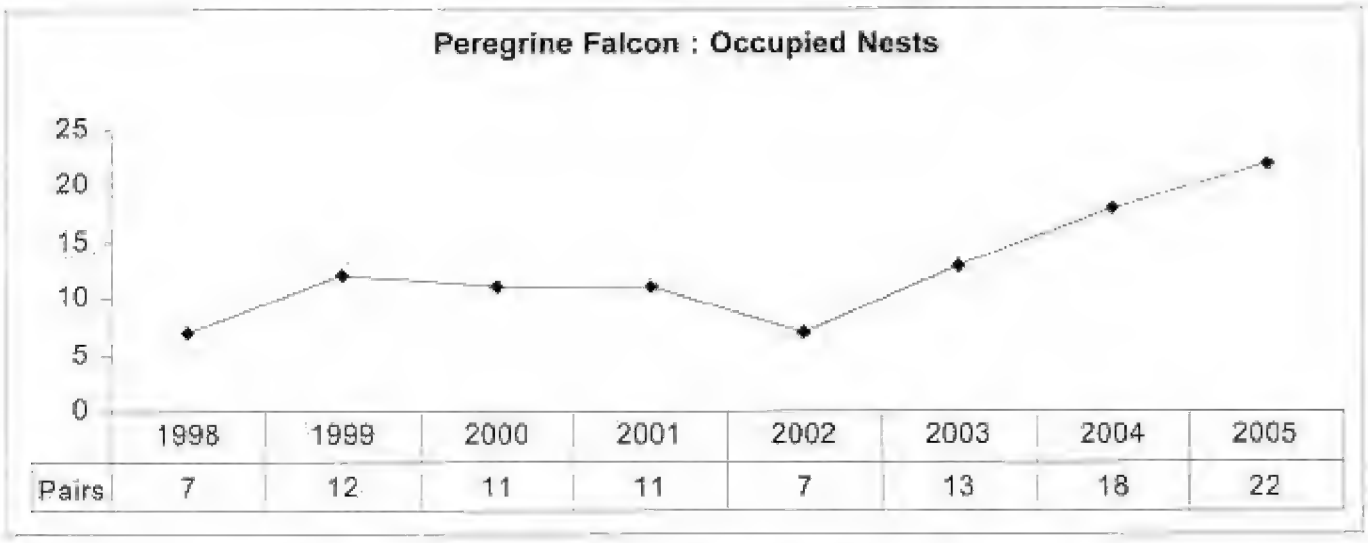
It is thought that 5-20 pairs of this visitor from tropical Africa bred in the county. The number of sightings each year increases, but proof of breeding is difficult to obtain.
VC 61 Seen between 28th April when one flew east at Patrington, and 16th October when the last was at Flamborough Head. Breeding was hard to prove: in the Hull Valley area, two pairs probably bred and one possibly. A pair with three young was seen at Hornsea Mere and a pair bred at Burton Constable. Birds also summered at Watton NR/TLNR and may have bred nearby – a pair feeding a juvenile at Lockington on 3rd September may have been these birds. In the Lower Derwent Valley, one pair probably bred and two possibly. An indication of the frequency with which this species is now recorded is shown by North Cave Wetlands, where singles were recorded on 14 dates. Recorded on seven dates at Filey, with five south on 28th May. Eleven were recorded at Flamborough and 19 at Spurn, where it was considered a poor year.
VC 62 The number of reports from the Scarborough area indicates the northward spread of this species. An early bird was at Grinkle on 22nd April. Singles were seen in spring at Coatham Marsh, Hummersea and Hutton Buscel. A series of sightings of adults from the Scalby Lodge area between 21st June and 21st July was followed by juveniles on 4th and 23rd August. Other sightings of singles included birds at Lebberston and Nunthorpe in June, Wykeham and York in July and Cayton Bay in July and near Sherburn in August. Three birds including two juveniles were seen in Bransdale on 27th and an adult with two juveniles in The Carrs on 29th August strongly suggested breeding in each area. The last was an adult over Old Scalby Tip on 19th October.
VC 63 Records have increased considerably over the last couple of years. The first was seen at Southfield on 29th April and the last was at Ringstone Edge 12th October. At least five pairs bred in the Doncaster area, including three on Hatfield Moors, one at Huggin Carr and one near Tickhill (*per* Doncaster OS]. Recorded intermittently throughout the south and east of the VC, records being mostly of single birds with two occasionally seen and three recorded at one site in September. To the north, one was at Swillington Ings on 15th May with two birds spending most of the summer in the area. Two probably both first-summers were at a site in the Halifax area on 20th to 21st June and 9th July. Single birds were also seen during the summer at Leeshaw Res, Pugneys CP, Thornton Moor Res, the Wintersett area and Fairburn Ings RSPB from June to 12th October with three birds noted on 30th September.
VC 64 From May to September there were 41 records. Birds were observed in Wharfedale on 12 dates between 21st June and 9th August often involving two birds. It is thought likely that there was a turnover of different birds during this period. May: Great Ouseburn on 19th, Ripley on 20th, Bishop Monkton on 22nd and Staveley NR on 26th. June: Marton-cum-Grafton on 6th, Sharow on 16th, Harrogate on 17th, Hutton Conyers on 18th, Farnham GP and Staveley NR on 26th. July: Barden Fell on1st, Penny Pot Lane on 4th, Littlethorpe on 6th and 13th, Staveley NR on 8th, Askwith on 9th, Great Ouseburn on 13th, Thorlby on 15th, Aireside Cononley on 18th, Barden 23rd, Rombald's and Ilkley Moors on 25th, Ben Rhydding GP, Farnham GP and Copt Hewick on 26th and Harlow Carr gardens on 27th. August: Thruscross Res on 1st, Farnham GP on 4th, 11th and 14th, Bellflask Quarry on 9th, 10th and 14th, Bilton on 16th and Gouthwaite Res on 27th. September: Thorpe Underwood on 7th, Ovendale Moor on 7th and 8th, Farnham GP on 18th, Staveley NR

on 18th and 20th, Askwith on 13th, Hutton Conyers on 21st and near Ripon on 22nd.
VC 65 Recorded with increasing regularity. In May a single was at Nosterfield NR on 14th with birds at nearby Lingham Lake on 22nd and 25th. A single was at High Batts NR on 7th July and again on 2nd August. Nosterfield NR and Lingham Lake had birds on 6th, 13th, 14th, and 28th August, and finally Nosterfield had birds on 10th, 17th 18th, 19th and 27th September.

PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus* A

Amber list: scarce resident breeder and winter visitor. BBS 4/166

It is thought that at least 22 pairs attempted to breed in the county, rearing a minimum of 17 young. The completeness of annual surveys do vary, but the upwards trend is encouraging.



	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Pairs	7	12	11	11	7	13	18	22

Surveys were limited in 2002 due to Foot and Mouth restrictions

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* breeding totals in the Yorkshire Dales Upland Bird Study Group Area in 2005

	Grouse moor sites	Sites <2 km from Grouse moor	Sites >2 km from grouse moor	Totals
No. sites checked	5	4	9	**18**
No. sites occupied	1	2	6	**9**
No. sites successful	0	1	3	**4**
No. young fledged	0	1	5	**6**

VC 61 Three pairs bred: – at Filey (three young fledged), Flamborough (success unknown) and at a site in the Wolds (three young fledged). Regularly reported from coastal sites in winter, including Flamborough, Hornsea Mere, and Spurn, and also along the Humber at Sunk Island, Stone Creek, Paull Holme Strays, Hull, North Ferriby and Brough Haven. Up to two birds were recorded in winter at Watton NR/TLNR, with other sightings from PHENR, TLNR, South Cave and North Dalton. It was regular at North Cave Wetlands, including summer records on two dates each in June, July and August. Singles were logged on 29 dates at Spurn between January and June with two on 2nd June. Sightings became more regular in September when singles were seen on 11 dates during the month with regular but lower numbers of sightings until the year end.
VC 62 Two pairs were present in summer in the Scarborough area, one raising two young, another pair were resident near Ravenscar and probably two pairs in Cleveland south of the Tees. Frequently reported throughout the year.
VC 63 The Halifax area (included in the above table) recorded its best breeding year with four pairs rearing eleven chicks, four more than the previous year. All the young were ringed and DNA tested, with the nests being guarded by volunteers. Two more pairs were present in suitable breeding habitat, but breeding wasn't proved. At least three pairs bred in the south of the VC, with one at least failing, and the outcome of the other two unknown. At Swillington Ings and Fairburn Ings RSPB birds were seen on a regular basis in every month except June, with one seen carrying a Teal *Anas crecca* at the former site. Recorded in all months except June at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB, being seen on 53 dates in the year, all single birds except two seen on 5th of February. One at Cononley Ings on 10th December caught a Wigeon.
VC 64 In addition to birds recorded in the above table, one other pair reared three young. A pair reared one young in the mid-dales. Two other sites were deserted and one not attended. Recorded from all areas including a bird roosting in the centre of Brighouse on 9th February. It was felt that 40 birds were involved in sightings in the VC, with 30 between April and end of July with 10 in the final three months of the year.
VC 65 Records were received from high ground from Roundhill, Leighton Reservoirs and the Colsterdale area. On low ground the Nosterfield area had birds regularly hunting over the sites from the start of

the year until 2nd May. The first bird was back in the Nosterfield area on 28th July and then seen regularly up to the end on November. In both periods these records involved at least four different birds and adults and young birds. The bird on the 27th November was of particular interest as it showed the characteristics of the Arctic race *F. p. calidus*. Birds were also seen in the winter months in the Marfield NR and Quarry area. The traditional site west of Masham was unoccupied this year! A pair in upper Wensleydale fledged 2 young.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus* A

Amber list: scarce resident breeder; uncommon passage migrant/winter visitor

VC 61 Resident in the LDNNR and at Hornsea Mere and TLNR (two pairs). the years maximum at the latter site was 12 on 24th December. Birds were heard calling at Skipwith Common in mid-October. Birds also wintered at PHENR (three birds in February) and probably at Welton Waters (two in October). Sightings of single birds at Filey Dams on 21st June and 27th July are strongly suggestive of a further breeding attempt after the success of 2004. Also recorded at Filey in March, April and October. Two birds over-wintered at Spurn around Southfield Farm in the first period, and birds were then seen from 5th October to the end of the year. A migrant bird was seen feeding on sea buckthorn berries in the Sheep Field on 21st January.
VC 62 Bred at Coatham Marsh, where a juvenile seen in June, and up to four birds seen. Winter records came from Burniston Beck, Cowath Beck, Seamer Road Mere and Star Carr and a migrant was noted on the north side of Castle Hill on 20th October. One feeding under bird feeders in Staindale Lake on 29th January was unusual, as was a migrant perched on a gorse bush at Hummersea on 17th October.
VC 63 At Fairburn Ings RSPB birds were recorded in every month throughout the year with at least six birds noted some months. Swillington Ings had regular sightings during February and March, with one seen at Lowther Lake on 26th June, 9th and 18th July indicating breeding may have taken place there. Single birds were again noted from early September to the end of the year. Elsewhere at Rodley NR singles were seen on thirty dates including one on 10th July and one was at Marley SW on 14th November. At least eleven were present at various sites at Wintersett Res from January to 29th March, with returning birds seen again from 7th October to the end of the year with at least nine birds present. Elland GP had one on 27th March and High Royd Sewage Works had one on three dates in March and December with three on 24th. Present throughout the year at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB with seven territories located in May/June. Two pairs were confirmed to have bred successfully. At Blacktoft Sands RSPB no breeding survey conducted but there was a large wintering population, difficult to count, but up to 20 were heard on several days in December. Occasional records from other sites including Potteric Carr where two chicks were seen on 5th June.
VC 64 Single birds in January were at Otley Wetland and two at Esholt SW. One was at Thorpe Underwood Lakes on 4th and 27th February with two at High Royd SW at end of the month with three on several days in March. A female with one chick was at Staveley NR on 8th June and another with two on 20th July. One was at Cononley on 14th August. Eight were calling at Staveley NR on 20th September, two at Stocksbridge NR on 5th October with three at the month end and one at Farnham GP on 30th. Singles were at St Ives on 5th November, Hay-a-Park on 6th and Ripon Parks on 20th, Farnham GP on 20th, Littlethorpe Pottery on 23rd and two at Otley Wetland and three at High Royd SW during the month. Three were on the riverside at Cononley during November and December.
VC 65 At the Flask's Lake reedbed birds were calling on 8th and 16th October and 19th December.

SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana porzana* A 5,6,8,7,6

Amber list: rare occasional breeder; rare summer visitor and migrant.

This migratory species breeds from Spain eastwards through Europe to central Siberia, with its main breeding strongholds in Eastern Europe and Russia. It is a sporadic breeder in the county, but proof of breeding is difficult to confirm. Not thought to have bred this year.
VC 61 A single record from the LDNNR of a singing male at Wheldrake Ings on 11th July (MFJ: CSR: FW). Although possibly a breeding bird, it may equally have been on passage as it could not be detected again.
VC 62 One was at Coatham Marsh on 7th and 8th September (ECP *et al.*).
VC 63 Singles at Edderthorpe Flash 6th August, Blacktoft Sands RSPB 8th to 20th September and Old Moor Wetlands RSPB 17th September to 16th October (KD: JW *et al.*). At Rodley NR an adult was present on the wet grassland area of the reserve for five days from 1st October (PSTr). This was the first record for the reserve.

CORN CRAKE *Crex crex* A 3,5,2,1,3

Red list and UK BAP species: rare occasional breeder, summer visitor and passage migrant

There has been a slow recovery in the British breeding population of this globally threatened species, but it remains almost entirely confined to north-west Scotland. Spring migrants have sometimes remained and bred in suitable habitat within the county, but no possible breeding records were received this year. Migrants, presumably of Scandinavian origin, are occasionally found on the coast in autumn.
VC 61 One was seen landing on upper beach at Kilnsea Cliff on 1st September (AFS: MGS). One was found dead at Aldborough on 3rd September.
VC 62 One was flushed from a field near Primrose Valley, Filey on 18th September (JH).

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus* A

Common to abundant resident breeder; some immigration in autumn/winter
BBS 25/166 90% (8) increase 1994-2005, -6% (2) decrease 2004-5

This successful species has been increasing at much greater than national rates in Yorkshire, but this year saw a sudden local reversal in fortunes. Productivity levels nationally have been declining, and Mink has been a problem in some areas.

VC 61 High counts included 45 regularly noted at Hornsea Mere and 59 at TLNR in December.

VC 62 A widespread breeder.

VC 63 Common resident breeding bird on most stretches of water and rivers throughout the area, including Cold Edge Dams and Cononley. The largest counts were at Fairburn Ings RSPB with 69 in July, 76 in October, 78 in November and 80 in December. The peak count at Potteric Carr was 33 on 21st August.

VC 64 Breeding noted or juveniles at: Bingley North Bog, Crossflatts, Fewston Res, Tong Park Res, Strid Wood, St Ives, Valley of Desolation and Weecher Res. Counts at Gouthwaite Res, Nicholson's Lagoon and Staveley above. Elsewhere: 27 at Snaygill SW on 23rd January, 14 at Farnley Lake on 21st March, 26 at Farnham GP on 26th May and 10 at Tong Park Res on 22nd and 29th September. Maximum counts were 46 at Gouthwaite Res in August, 41 at Nicholson's Lagoon in February and 28 at Staveley NR in August.

VC 65 Several pairs breed at Nosterfield NR, where up to 24 were counted. Nearby, Lingham Lake had a maximum of 21 in July and August and High Batts NR feeders attracted maximum's of up to 24 in January, and 16 in December.

COOT *Fulica atra* A

Fairly common resident breeder; some immigration in winter. BBS 16/166

The population of this Palearctic species is probably stable in line with national trends. Numbers in winter are be swollen by immigrants from northwest Europe.

WeBS Counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Anglers CP	238	105	95	23	25	32	125	143	102	48	87	81
Bolton-on-Swale	320	246	138	99	97	141	366	364	183	-	-	-
Fairburn Ings	1000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2200	-	2718	-
Farnham GP	357	n/c	151	-	-	-	n/c	n/c	205	395	530	633
Hay-a-Park GP	313	101	74	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	n/c	62	27	24	57
Hornsea Mere	1050	910	725	495	380	515	600	585	2900	800	1100	1250
Nosterfield NR	235	168	172	152	120	314	484	460	277	90	109	133
Pugneys CP	184	66	62	n/c	14	14	119	129	201	127	76	147
Staveley NR	179	113	110	-	-	-	112	100	61	70	112	127
Swillington Ings	36	30	33	n/c	27	33	264	303	208	54	27	35
Tophill Low Res	101	75	65	81	31	37	47	164	484	428	400	572
Wintersett Res	55	40	44	52	40	53	68	86	92	134	143	253

VC 61 Breeds widely, including the Hull parks and along the drains in the city. At least 21 pairs bred at TLNR, where the peak count was 572 in December. The next highest count, on Welton Waters, was 127 in January.

VC 62 Breeding at the larger expanses of fresh water, more numerous in the winter months. High counts included 216 at Scaling Dam in November, 79 on South Tees in December and 76 at Wykeham Lakes in January. Always scarce on the sea, one swimming in North Bay Scarborough on 19th August was noteworthy.

VC 63 Breeds on a number of sites where there is a good expanse of open water although tends to be scarcer on the upland reservoirs. Most numerous at Fairburn Ings RSPB where 2718 in November. Other counts include 320 on several dates in January and February at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB and 84 at Beal Carrs 1st and 2nd September.

VC 64 Few comments about status. Counts at Nicholson's Lagoon, Staveley NR, Farnham GP and Hay-a-Park GP above. Elsewhere: 98 at Otley Wetland in January, 60 at Knotford Nook in March and 45 at Redcar Tarn in July. 500 at Malham Tarn on 6th September. 150 were at Otley Wetland October to December.

VC 65 Present on most suitable waters throughout the VC with breeding taking place on many. Monthly maxima for the main waters were 264 at Nosterfield NR and 202 on Lingham Lake in July and 254 on Flask's Lake in August. The WeBS counts in the table above cover the Nosterfield area.

COMMON CRANE *Grus grus* A 10,45,32,9,5

Amber list: rare breeder and scarce migrant

This species breeds in northern Europe, wintering in Spain and north-west Africa, and migrates north relatively early, with many arrivals in March. There is a small breeding population in Norfolk. The pair that bred unsuccessfully in the county in 2003 and 2004 was again unfortunate this year. They hatched two young but both failed to survive beyond a few weeks.

VC 61 An adult was seen south of Breighton on 15th April (RSS) and another flew north at Thorganby Ings 24th June.

VC 62 One flew south over Fylingdales Moors on 6th October (KB: PM).

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus* A

Amber list: scarce resident breeder, fairly common winter visitor/passage migrant. BBS 38/166
WeBS Status – Int. threshold 10200: GB threshold 3200

The small inland breeding population is still expanding in North, West Yorkshire and South Yorkshire, continuing the trend shown for 1982-2002 of an 8% increase shown for birds breeding on lowland grasslands (Wilson *et al.*, 2005). Birds move to the coast between August and February. A stable wintering population of national importance can be found on the cockle beds of the outer Humber (North and South), with some passage noted in August.

WeBS counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	2700	1912	1282	459	227	95	234	722	265	95	259	779
South Tees	1302	1879	959	321	129	154	136	142	1159	355	771	93

VC 61 Two pairs attempted to breed at Spurn but neither pair successfully reared any young; two pairs bred at North Cave Wetlands, one successfully rearing three young; single pairs bred successfully at TLNR, PHENR and Routh Pits and pairs were noted in the LDNNR, at Allerthorpe Water Park and Brigham Quarry. There was an exceptionally high count from the Humber on January 15th, with 1988 in the Spurn area, and smaller numbers inland to Paull. Autumn passage at Spurn saw 3021 fly south between 1st July and 16th November, with the bulk of passage being from late July to early September, and the highest count 724 on 29th July. The highest count at Filey Brigg was 130 on 16th December, and passage there was the lowest for 15 years. Unusually, 465 flew north at Atwick on 7th August.

VC 62 Five pairs bred in the Scarborough area: two at Wykeham and one each at Ganton Carr, Star Carr and Sherburn Ings. A pair summered at Scaling Dam. A southerly summer coastal passage peaked at 123 south at Long Nab on August 7th.

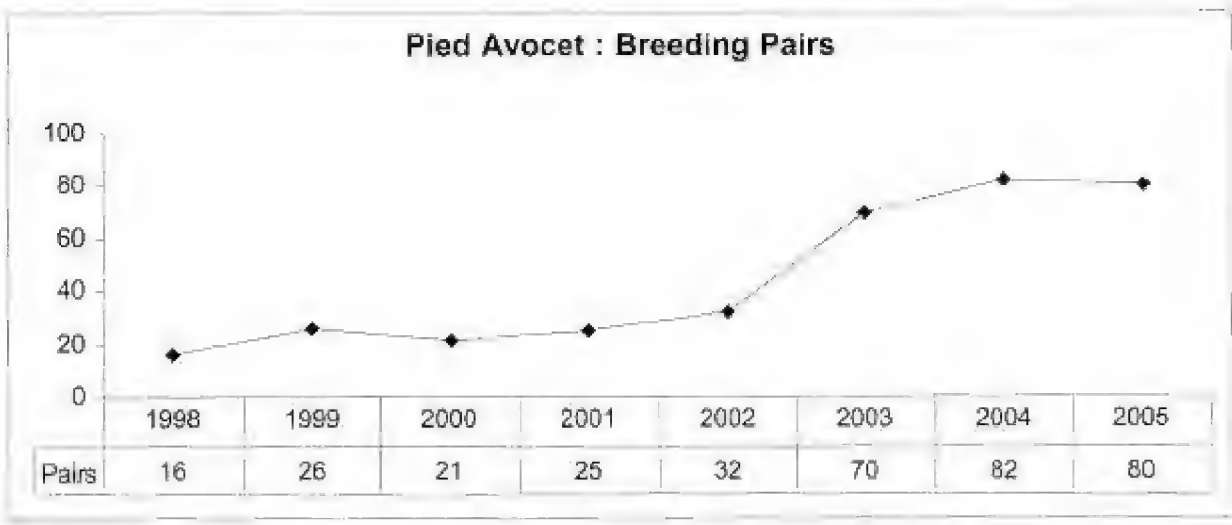
VC 63 Seems to be moving inland and into the lower altitudes. Birds returned to the breeding areas from mid February with a pair raising three chicks at Anglers CP Wintersett, three pairs were holding territory at Walshaw Dean, Halifax, at Throstle Nest Farm, where five pairs only reared one chick, and a pair at Cononley, with failed breeding attempts at Meltham Cop, Huddersfield and Pugneys CP. Four birds were noted regularly at Fairburn Ings RSPB but breeding success was unknown and a pair failed to breed at Swillington Ings despite mating taking place. Recorded at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB between 8th January and 15th August, where three pairs held territory and there was a maximum of 11 on 16th July. Records at Potteric Carr more frequent following habitat development with two pairs making nests. Breeding was attempted near to Beal Carrs but outcome unknown. Most birds had left by the end of August but an unseasonal bird was seen at Skelton Lake on 26th November and 2nd December.

VC 64 Bred: Baildon, Barden, Bellflask Quarry, March Ghyll Res and Otley Wetland (two pairs) and along the river Wharfe. Birds moved back early in February with 40 at Hay-a-Park on 12th, 29 at Arncliffe Cote on 13th, and 79 at Ripon Racecourse on 18th with 38 also at Gouthwaite Res during the month. In March, 105 were between Bishop Monkton and Ox Close on 2nd March with 83 at Nicholson's Lagoons and 96 at Gouthwaite Res to the month end. In April: 80 at Grimwith Res on 2nd and 45 at Otley Wetland on 15th. Numbers at Gouthwaite Res were 53 in April, 21 in May, 29 in June and 62 in July reducing to nine in August. A leucistic bird was at Embsay Pond on 17th May.

VC 65 A passage and breeding bird with one or two winter records in the VC. Nosterfield NR recorded three birds regularly in January with returning birds peaking at 108 in February, dropping to 14 breeding birds by May, most birds leaving by late August. Wintering peaks were again three in November and nine in December. Lingham Lake had a peak of 23 on 6th February and Marfield NR 79 (one of which had an all-white head) in that month. The Bolton-on Swale peak count was 42 on 24 July. On higher ground Leighton Res counts peaked at 20 in March and Semer Water also peaked at 20 in April. Bred: Nosterfield NR - five pairs, Lingham Lake - one pair, Marfield Quarry - one pair and at high ground sites , Leighton Res - one pair, Roundhill Res - eight pairs and Steelhouse Gill - one pair.

AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta* **A**
Amber list: scarce resident breeder; uncommon visitor
WeBS Status - Int. threshold 730: GB threshold 35

Having first bred at Blacktoft Sands RSPB, further colonies were established at North Cave Wetlands and Paull Holme Strays in 2003. At these three sites, 75-80 pairs bred rearing 37 young. Most winter in West Africa, but an increasing number remain in Britain, mainly on estuaries on the south coast. It is turning up inland with increasing regularity.



	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Pairs	16	26	21	25	32	70	82	80

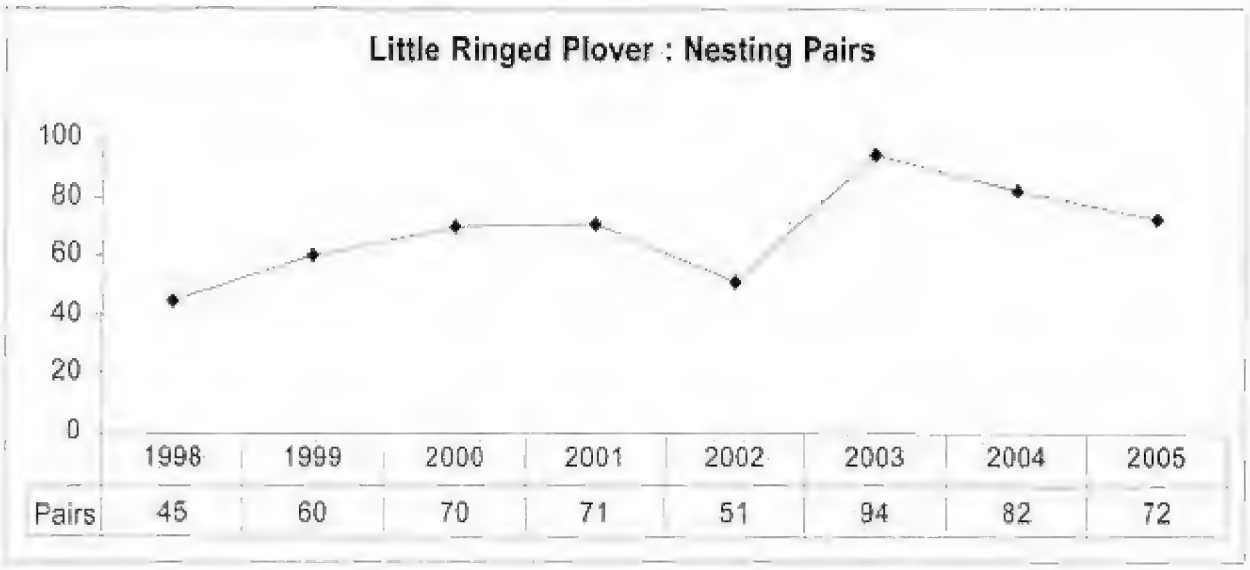
VC 61 At Paull Holme Strays, up to 142 adults were noted and 26-31 pairs bred, rearing at least 18 young. Eighteen chicks were seen on 7th June, but on July 13th, two juveniles and 12 younger chicks were noted suggesting further success. At North Cave Wetlands, birds returned on 10th March and seven pairs successfully fledged 14 young. One was at BPNR on 19th and 20th March, one flew south over Hagg Bridge, Sutton-on-Derwent on 27th April, one was at Watton Carrs on 11th May, one was at Aughton Ings on 8th June, with two later that day at Bank Island, two turned up at Filey Dams on 23rd June, one bird carrying a ring, and one was at Wheldrake Ings on 11th July. Also occasionally seen along the Humber from Brough Haven, Welton to Sammy's Point and Spurn, where four flew south on 16th October. Breeds nearby at Read's Island in North Lincolnshire, and 448 were counted on the south bank of the Humber on 3rd August from Welton, giving some indication of its presence on the estuary.
VC 62 One was on Scalby Lodge Pond on 19th June (MF *et al.*).
VC 63 Up to 129 adults were seen at Blacktoft Sands RSPB. Forty-two pairs hatched 80 young, but only five fledged due mostly to predation by Carrion Crows. Two birds were at Dewsbury SF on 23rd March, and then arrived at the Park Lake Wintersett on 25th staying for five minutes before leaving to the east. What was possibly the same birds appeared the next day at Fairburn Ings and Astley Lake, Swillington Ings. Although they were seen mating and were seen on various dates until 17th April a serious breeding attempt did not take place. Elsewhere, two birds were reported from various sites, involving at least a second pair. Two were seen at Beal Carrs 28th March, Fairburn Ings on 24th April, Old Moor Wetlands RSPB 30th April and Potteric Carr on 31st May (first site record) and one was at Rother Valley CP on 1st June. Two birds appeared on the shallows at Anglers CP during heavy rain on 13th August leaving to the north-east fifteen minutes later.

STONE-CURLEW *Burhinus oedicnemus* **A** 0,2,1,2,1
Red list and UK BAP species: rare visitor; 38 records since extinction as a breeding species in 1930's

A long term decline in the British population of this summer visitor in the early part of the 20th century brought about the loss of this species as a breeding bird in Yorkshire in the 1930's. It is now an over-shooting spring migrant from the increasing population in East Anglia.
VC 61 One was flushed from a farm track near the fishponds at Aldbrough on 26th May (AFJ).

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius* **A**
Scarce breeding summer visitor; uncommon passage migrant/summer visitor. BBS 2/166

A summer visitor from Africa, widespread across Europe, which first bred in Britain at Tring in 1938. Between 68-74 pairs bred in the county, a decline on numbers estimated recently. Numbers of breeding pairs may have declined slightly in South Yorkshire in recent years as pits and waste tips become increasingly vegetated.
VC 61 Recorded between 19th March and 11th October at North Cave Wetlands, where six pairs attempted to breed, although only two broods were seen. Three other pairs attempted to breed in the Hull Valley area, at Watton NR and PHENR, but all were unsuccessful, and two pairs bred in the Keyingham area. Three pairs were at Allerthorpe and a pair was present in the LDNNR. Recorded at Filey Dams from 3rd April, with up to five present almost continuously from 9th July to 4th August, and a flock of five which stayed from 17th to



25th July being joined by a sixth for one day on 22nd. There were just four records from Spurn between 31st March and 28th July. Also recorded at Hornsea Mere, Brough Airfield Marsh and Welton Waters where a pair was present on 11th May.

VC 62 Recorded between 31st March and 6th September, a pair was seen on wasteland near York Station on 28th April. Four pairs were seen at Wykeham lakes in June, three of which had young, and two pairs bred at Scaling Dam, one of which was successful. .

VC 63 The first for the year was one at Dewsbury SF on 16th March, followed by Pugneys CP on 19th. In the Halifax area one pair bred at Lower Gorple, two at Ringstone Edge Res and a pair with chicks was seen at Withens Clough. Three further pairs are thought to have bred at other sites in the Halifax area. One pair raised two young at Wintersett, with two pairs at Pugneys CP, one rearing one young. Fairburn Ings RSPB had at least two pairs with six juveniles seen on 25th July, but these may have come from elsewhere. Four pairs were on territory at Swillington Ings but only one pair was seen with two young. First recorded at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB on 22nd March with a maximum of eighteen on 20th May and last recorded there on 3rd September. Four pairs nested of which two pairs fledged three young. In the Doncaster area 12-15 pairs bred. At Blacktoft Sands RSPB the first was on 3rd April with six seen on 13th July and the last, four, present 10th August. Potteric Carr had birds regularly from April until July. A full clutch of eggs was destroyed, possibly through trampling by geese though young were reported from the site. Breeding was confirmed on Thorne Moors NNR. Singles were at Marley in March, near Cononley on 1st, 3rd and 27th April, 30th June and 4th and 30th July. Reported from Thornton Moor Res in July and August, a late bird at Pugneys CP on 15th October was the last sighting for the year.

VC 64 Bred at two sites in the BOG area with four young from two nests and an unknown outcome at another with a possible three other sites. Two pairs bred at Gouthwaite Res and a pair hatched young at Bellflask Quarry. Passage birds seen in March were at Bellflask Quarry, Gouthwaite Res, Lindley Wood Res, Nicholson's Lagoons, Otley Wetland, Ripon Racecourse and Sandbeds Flash. In July seven were at Hay-a-Park on 2nd and five at Staveley NR on 13th.; ones and twos were reported from John O'Gaunt's Res in July and early August. The last were three at Gouthwaite Res on 26th September.

VC 65 The first returning bird was at Nosterfield NR on 23rd March with the last autumn date at the same site on 25th September. Six pairs breed in The Flask's Lake area, two failing at egg stage. Of the other four pairs that hatched young, three failed due to predation by a Kestrel (see that species for details) and one pair fledged three young.

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula* A

Amber list: scarce resident breeder; fairly common passage migrant/winter visitor. BBS 2/166
WeBS Status - Int. threshold 730: GB threshold 330 winter, 300 passage

Nationally declining, breeds in small numbers both on the coast and inland, including the YDNP, where two pairs recorded at Grimwith Res. Small numbers winter on the estuaries, with spring migration of birds that breed further north usually peaking in mid to late May, and returning birds in August.

WeBS counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	24	52	56	33	1024	29	55	737	212	83	16	25
South Tees	0	0	22	4	31	15	8	57	68	0	1	0

VC 61 A minimum of 17 pairs attempted to breed at Spurn but there was heavy predation and only three young definitely fledged. Four pairs bred at North Cave Wetlands. A marked and internationally significant spring passage was again noted on the Humber this year, with 727 counted on the Paull to Cherry Stone Creek section on the relatively early date of 8th May. At Flamborough, 34 were seen on 27th February, and 38 on 24th September. Maxima recorded at Filey Brigg were 26 on 26th January and 30 on 28th February. Passage was noted through the LDNNR where there were flock of 13, 17, 20 and 27 in May (140 bird days).

Low single figures counts were made at Hornsea Mere, TLNR, PHENR and Watton NR. Many passage birds in spring were identified as showing the characters of the race *tundrae*, for instance 161 of 164 at Paull Holme Strays on 23rd May (RL) and one caught at Bank Island on 24th May.
VC 62 Seven territorial pairs were noted between Redcar and Saltburn at the end of May, otherwise generally a passage migrant, small numbers wintering in the Jackson's Bay/Scalby Mills area. More common in autumn in the Coatham Sands/Redcar area.
VC 63 Birds began returning to the breeding areas from the beginning of February with six pairs breeding at Swillington Ings, and one pair raising one chick at Pugneys CP. First recorded at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB on 15th February with a maximum of 23 on 17th July and last recorded on the 9th October. Two pairs held territory in May. Small numbers were noted on passage at many locations in both spring and autumn, with 21 in several parties moving through Swillington Ings on 10th and 20 at Fairburn Ings RSPB on 11th September. At Thornton Moor Res, there were four on 24th April, with three at Cold Edge Dams on 30th, and up to three birds on five dates at Thornton Moor Res between 1st May and 5th June, with five on 25th August and nine on 10th and 25th September. Two juveniles were at Cononley Ings on 16th and 17th August and one at Denholme Clough on 20th. At Blacktoft Sands RSPB a poor year for this species with single figures on several dates and a peak of 40 on 19th May. Potteric Carr had up to three birds between 20th March and 13th September with a peak of nine on 21st June. Young birds were reported there but the number of breeding pairs was not determined.
VC 64 Bred Staveley NR where one pair hatched four chicks. Two pairs hatched young at Grimwith Res. In the breeding season one was at Mossy Moor Res on 1st May. At Gouthwaite Res, small numbers of one to five were noted from 14th March to 27th August. Two were at Farnham GP on 4th May. Five juveniles were at Farnham on 10th September.
VC 65 The first for the year was a single on 13th February at Nosterfield NR, then seen in low single figures until nine on 13th March. Thereafter, spring maxima were 18 on 1st May and 13 on 29th June. Autumn passage at this site saw monthly maximums of ten on 16th August and 35 on 10th September with the last on 16th October. Eight seen at this site on 28th April were of the race *tundrae*. Lingham Lake had small numbers from 13th September with peak passage counts of 43 on 30th April, 32 on 1st May and 26 from 25th to the 29th. The maximum autumn passage count was 28 on 27th August. There were five nesting attempts at Nosterfield NR involving three pairs at any one time and of these, three broods of two fledged. At Flask's Lake a pair failed at egg stage after the male was apparently predated.

DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus* A 39,43,22,95,33

Amber list: scarce passage migrant, more frequent in spring; rarely has bred

This species is a regular passage migrant, usually during May, on route to breeding grounds in Scotland and Scandinavia. Favoured sites include high ground in the Pennines and pea-fields in the east of the county.
VC 61 The first reported were on 29th April, when two were found a mile northwest of Aldbrough (AFJ) and five were on a bare earth field south of Humbleton (DC). The last of the spring was on the beach at Spurn on 4th and 5th June (JAB: PC). In autumn, six flew over Old Fall, Flamborough on 10th September (AMA).
VC 62 Two were present at Cowbar on 2nd April, and one remained there on 3rd (RCT *et al.*) and a juvenile flew past Hummersea on 21st September.
VC 63 Six (four females) showed in a pea field at Whitgift between 2nd and 11th May. One flew north, calling, over Southfield Res on 8th May. Two birds at High Brow Knoll Halifax on 9th May were both thought to be males (DJS *et al*).
VC 64 Two females were at Staveley NR on 23rd April, three were on Ingleborough on 29th April and two males at Midgley Moor on 9th May.

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria* A

Uncommon moorland breeder; common passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 24/166
WeBS Status - Int. threshold 9300: GB threshold 2500

A contraction in breeding range was noted from 2004. The last RSPB surveys in 2001/02 showed a -28% decline in North Yorkshire, but BBS data had not shown any recent contraction in range until this year. However, the Humber Estuary is the most important wintering site in the UK, with 20% of the population, and peak counts this year were 10% above average, and double those for 2004, reflecting the record national counts in the winter 2004/5.

WeBS counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	35634	8188	11139	0	1002	43	8702	9504	7933	12566	11090	33807

VC 61 The largest counts were 26000 between Paull and Stone Creek on 11th December and 24230 there on 15th January, when 5900 birds were counted between Goole and Brough and 3600 in the Welwick/ Skeffling sector. These birds tend to feed in the fields and roost on the inter-tidal mudflats. Other high counts included 4000 in the Atwick area on 25th January, 4000 at Paull Holme Strays on 17th February, 3700 on Brough airfield on 5th January, 1600 on Swinemoor on 23rd March, 490 at Brough haven in September and 350 at North Cave Wetlands in February and November.

VC 62 Breeding birds were noted at Dimmingdale and Fylingdal Moor. On the Wykeham Estate 2000 were estimated on 3rd January, and 1,100 were still there on 7th April, this being the last spring record. Autumn counts included 980 at Binnington Carr on 23rd October, 2000 at Cayton Carr on 12th November, 2300 at New Marske on 24th November, up to 500 at Seamer Carr in December, and up to 1,000 in fields between Scalby Lodge and Burniston on 29th December.
VC 63 In the Halifax area 130 birds were located on breeding territory with breeding proven at Ovenden Moor and Skirden Clough. In the early part of the year Blacktoft Sands RSPB had a peak count was of 3000 in February, while in the later part of year up to 8000 were present in November. At Old Moor Wetlands RSPB, present in good numbers in both winter periods with up to 4500 in January and February and the year's maximum of 6200 on 18th October. Large numbers were at Pugneys CP where flocks totalled 1000 in January, 1200 in February with numbers decreasing until the last was seen on 19th March. In the autumn flocks started to build from early September with 600 in November and 1000 in December. Winter flocks were also noted at Ringstone Edge Res, Cold Edge and Mount Tabor. Fairburn Ings had regular flocks from the beginning of the year to 18th April when 400 were noted, with birds returning later in the year peaking at 500 in December. At Blackmoorfoot Res, birds were recorded during most months with 268 on 11th April the biggest gathering. Beal Carrs had peak counts of 1750 on 18th October and 1500 on 12th November. At Potteric Carr numbers were low in the early part of the year. Late-year peak there was 1430 on 16th October with 1000 still present on 21st December and 600 on 31st December.
VC 64 Breeding season records came from Angram Res, Heyshaw Moor, Little Whernside, Pott Moor, Steelhouse Moor and Burley Moor (nest with four eggs). Counts included: 1000 at Copgrove on 21st January; 3500 in the Norwood Lane, Haverah Park and Sandwith Moor area on 21st and 22nd March with 8000 on 29th, 1000 on 1st April reducing to 500 on 17th; 1500 at Staveley NR on 23rd March with 1000 on 28th when 2000 at Sandwith Moor and 3000 there on 29th April, however there is anecdotal evidence that there was 8000. Smaller numbers elsewhere: 500 at Thruscross on 25th March. 800 near Wetherby on 1st October, 700 at Menwith Hill on 25th with a large count of 3000 on 15th November with 450 at Chelker Res on 13th.
VC 65 Breeding was recorded in the Colsterdale area.

Monthly counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Lingham Lake	1604	460	-	-	-	-	-	33	450	3500	2200	4050
Nosterfield NR	60	354	500	1	4	-	-	1	27	183	66	780

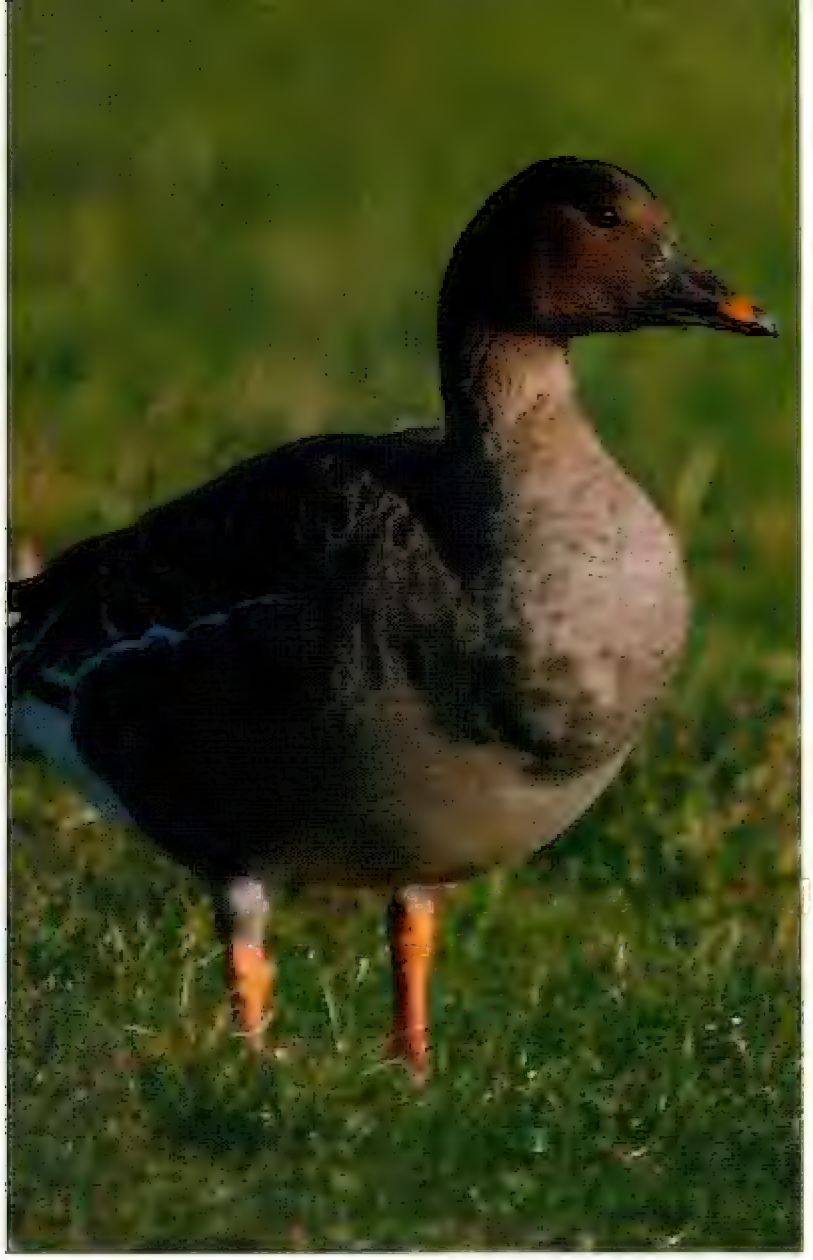
GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola* A

Amber list: common passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce inland
WeBS Status - Int. threshold 2500: GB threshold 530

A visitor from breeding grounds in the high Arctic, this globally widespread species winters on the outer Humber, with passage noted in April and May, and again in September. Nationally numbers have been declining, and Humber counts this year were low.

WeBS counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	691	9	274	636	718	309	312	303	732	108	550	943
South Tees	53	60	36	15	0	0	0	0	0	14	15	33

VC 61 Apart from two singletons, only found on WeBS counts east of Paull on the Humber, with peak winter counts from the Welwick/Skeffling sector, where 615 were recorded on 11th December, but the highest counts of migrants recorded was at Spurn, where 549 were counted in April and 523 were noted between Spurn and Easington on 18th September. At Filey it was only recorded on 16 dates, all singletons and possibly only involving nine birds. Singles were at North Duffield Carr on 5th April, Aughton Ings on 19th and 20th April and Wheldrake Ings on 4th May. One at North Cave Wetlands on 4th September was a rare reserve record, and one flew over Tophill Low on 10th September.
VC 62 In the Scarborough area, this species is mainly a passage visitor in ones and twos, with just a handful of winter records this year.
VC 63 Continues to decline as a passage migrant with singles at Anglers CP on 27th May Swillington Ings on 10th September and Pugneys CP on 4th October. Singles were at Thornton Moor Res, on 21st August, 28th and 30th September, Denholme Clough on 2nd October with one at Cononley Ings on 15th and one flew west at Rod Moor on 7th November. It was a poor year at Blacktoft Sands RSPB with only five records. In spring, one on 21st, two on 22nd and one on 23rd March and one on 15th May. The sole autumn record was of a single on 9th September. At Old Moor Wetlands RSPB a single on 11th September and a single on 13 dates in October. Southfield Res had singles on 31st March and 12th August and two flew east on 14th October. One moved east through Beal Carrs on 30th March and singles were on Thorne Moors NNR on 2nd May and 15th October.
VC 64 The only spring record was of one at Bellflask Quarry on 16th May.
VC 65 A single at Nosterfield NR on 1st May later flew to nearby Lingham Lake, two were present at the later site on 28th May.



Tundra Bean Goose *Leeshaw Res*, January 2005
Sean Gray www.grayimages.co.uk

White Stork *Flamborough*, July 2005
Dave Mansell

White-fronted Goose *Blacktoft Sands RSPB*, February 2005 Darren Ward

Ruddy Shelduck | *Edderthorpe*, August 2005 | Darren Ward

Bittern | *Potteric Carr*, December 2005 | Iain Leach

Red Kite *Filey*, May 2005 Dave Mansell

Peregrine *Scarborough*, 2005
Dave Mansell

Leach's Petrel *Pugneys*, October 2005
Paul Meredith

Spotted Crake *Old Moor*, September 2005
John Hewitt

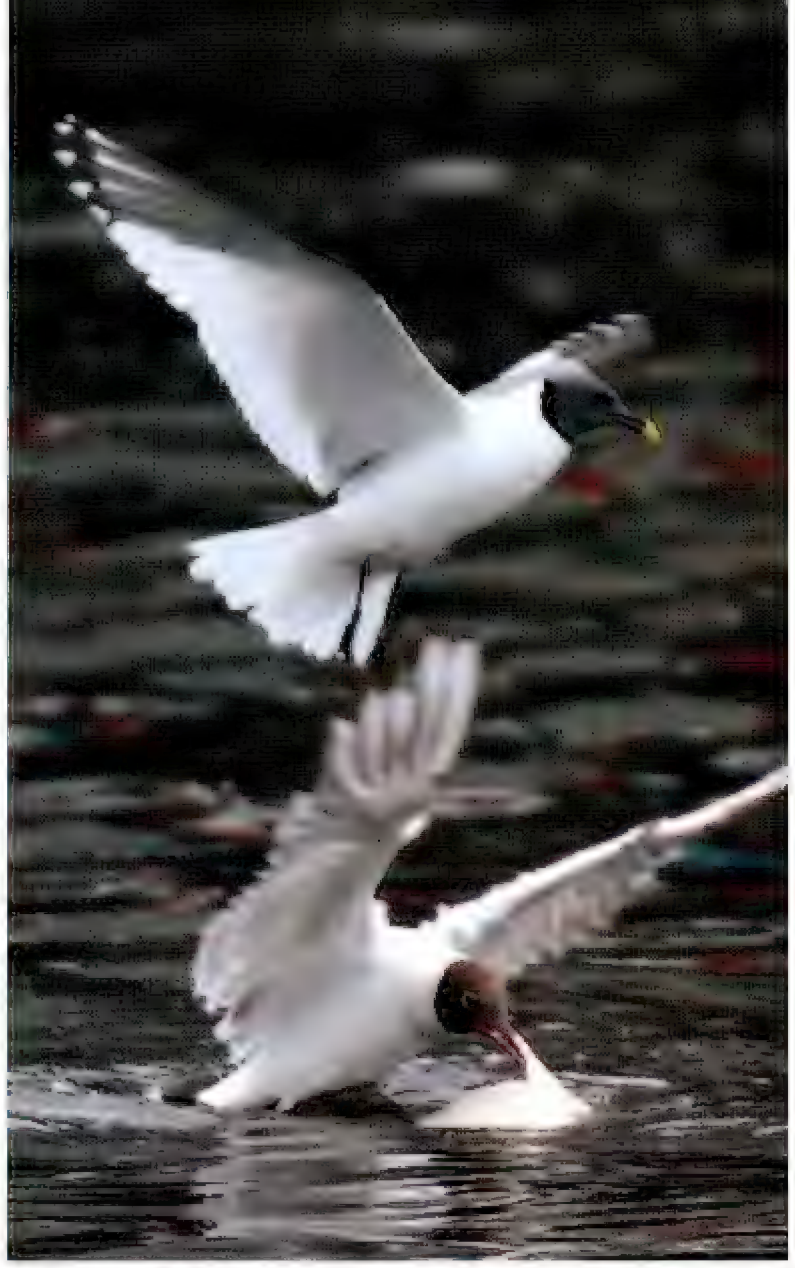
Sanderling *Scarborough*, 2005
Dave Mansell

Jack Snipe *Lower Derwent Valley*, October 2005 Russell Slack

Lesser Yellowlegs | *Filey Dams*, September, 2005 | Barrie Hanson

Grey Phalarope | *Filey*, November 2005 | Jon Horton

Mediterranean Gull *Holbeck*, November 2005
Dave Mansell



Sabines Gull *Knottingley*, July 2005
John Lowes

Laughing Gull *Anglers CP*, October 2005 Paul Meredith

Audouin's Gull — *Beacon Ponds NR*, June — Adam Hutt

Long-eared Owl — *Spurn*, October 2005 — Iain Leach

Kingfisher — *Rotherham*, August 2005 — Iain Leach

Wryneck *Spum*, October 2005 Iain Leach

Waxwing *Sheffield*, 2005
Kev Joynes

Booted Warbler *Scarborough*, September 2005
Dave Mansell

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus* A

Amber list: uncommon breeding resident; common passage migrant/winter visitor
BBS 97/166: 55% (12) increase 1994-2005, -13% (0) decrease 2004-5
WeBS Status - Int. threshold 20000: GB threshold 20000

UK residents are joined in winter by migrants from Scandinavia and northern Europe. A decrease was noted this year in the BBS surveys after an apparent recent recovery in the population: it is found less widely but in greater numbers in North Yorkshire than in 1994, but the reverse seems to be true in West and East Yorkshire. Surveys in 2001/2 had shown a 45% decline in populations on North Yorkshire uplands (Sim *et al.*, 2005) and a 30% decline on 29 lowland grassland sites in Yorkshire between 1982 and 2002 (Wilson *et al.*, 2005). Counts from the Humber, although above 2004 figures, were relatively low (e.g. 25779 counted in December 2003), perhaps due to the lack of cold weather movements.

WeBS counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	5242	2281	66	13	9	349	847	2048	57	1578	2031	9244

VC 61 Breeds at a number of lowland sites and thinly across the Wolds. At least 40 pairs bred at North Cave Wetlands raising an average of three per pair, eight pairs bred on Swinemoor, seven pairs at Tophill, and four pairs at Watton. The highest WeBS counts came from the Paull to Stone Creek sector in both winter periods, with 5390 counted on 11th December. This represents a shift in balance from the upper estuary, where there were winter counts of 1338 in January and 1402 in February, and may reflect the establishment of Paull Holme Strays as an additional roosting site. High counts include 380 on Brough Airfield in January, 500 at Burton Agnes and 420 on Swinemoor in February, 650 at North Cave Wetlands in July, 300 at PHENR in August and September, 350 at Filey in September, 700 at Leven in October, 500 at Spurn in the Triangle in December.
VC 62 Small numbers breed throughout the Scarborough district, mostly in The Carrs: seven pairs at Star Carr, six pairs in the Willerby/Binnington Carr area, and three pairs with chicks were noted at Wykeham Ings in late June. Nesting was also reported at Fylingdales Moor. High counts included 500 on the Wykeham Estate on 15th January and 900 at Scalby Lodge Pond on 26th December.
VC 63 Breeding occurred at most locations in the Halifax area with at least forty pairs holding territories in the Wainstalls-Castle Carr area. In February, 1820 were at Thornton Moor Res, 400 at Cononley Ings and 450 at Oxenhope. The highest counts at Fairburn Ings RSPB were 1000 in January and August, and 40 in February, March and October. Numbers were generally down at Swillington Ings with 450 to 660 from late July to mid August. On 6th February 500 flew east over Ringstone Edge Res. Up to 300 were present at Blacktoft Sands RSPB in January, 2000 in August and December. Seven pairs bred, four down on 2004. At Old Moor Wetlands RSPB the maximum was 1800 on 20th October. In May 55 pairs were on territory. At least twenty broods were confirmed to have hatched a total of at least 43 young, of which 35 were on Wombwell Ings. At least four broods were hatched at Beal Carrs which had peak counts of 2500 on 13th September and 850 on 24th December. Twenty pairs nested at Potteric Carr with the first young seen in late April. Potteric's peak count was 1070 on 11th September. In November, 900 were at Cononley Ings on 13th and 700 at Denholme Park during the month, while December counts included 1500 at Cononley Ings on 4th and 10th.
VC 64 There seems to be a tendency for small parties to return to breeding areas in January and February. Breeding reported from suitable habitats on moorland and lowland but no numbers indicated. Counts in January included 450 at Chelker Res on 1st, 700 at Wigglesworth on 13th, 1000 at Bradley Ings on 15th, 670 at Denton Hall on 24th and 1000 at Nicholson's Lagoons during the month. In February: 700 at Denton, 500 at Gouthwaite Res and 600-800 at Snowden Moor. Post-breeding flocks of 1000 were at Staveley NR on 16th August and 500 on 18th. In September: 500 at Chelker Res, 1000 at Hellifield Flash, and Gouthwaite Res. In October: 500 at Chelker Res with 696 at Snaygill Ings on 16th. In November: 2000 at Menwith Hill on 15th and 700 at Denton Hall during the month. December counts included 400 at Chelker Res during the month.
VC 65 Fifty plus pairs bred at Nosterfield NR, twelve of these failed due to rising water level, most re-laid. 50% of hatched young fledged. Bolton–on-Swale had a peak count of 2100 on18 September, but from the main sites, monthly maxima are shown below.

Monthly counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Lingham Lake	2330	850	95	30	9	141	4103	2430	4835	1600	1000	2270
Nosterfield NR	1500	1550	1200	103	81	66	500	400	868	1050	895	1000

KNOT *Calidris canutus* A

Amber list: common passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce inland
WeBS Status - Int. threshold 4500: GB threshold 2800

The Humber was the second most important UK wintering site for this species in the first winter period, and averages in fourth position overall. Birds are almost exclusively of the race *islandica* that breed in northern Greenland and high Arctic Canada. The population is thought to be stable.

WeBS counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	14514	264 26	13818	5325	362	1740	20045	34862	22115	1263	12855	16747
South Tees	103	890	200	2	5	0	1	0	190	0	40	300

VC 61 The largest WeBS count was from Spurn on 21st August, when 34102 were recorded, about 20000 more than in the same period the previous year. However, large numbers of feeding birds in winter are seen in the Welwick/Skeffling area, where 13500 were recorded in January and 15000 in December. These birds tend to roost on the south bank. Smaller numbers were noted west to Paull. Movements recorded at Spurn in autumn were 1176 logged moving south offshore, while 189 came in off the sea and 97 moved out east. The peak count at Filey was only 66, on 16th January although regularly seen on the Brigg except in summer. Inland records included three at Wheldrake Ings from 1st to 6th April and another there on 30th, one at Watton NR on 24th September, and a series from North Cave Wetlands, where one on 31st March, one in winter plumage on 27th and 28th April, one on 15th May, a summer plumaged bird present on 24th June and two in winter plumage on 3rd December.
VC 62 Away from the Tees estuary, there were no significant counts. At Coatham Sands, 350 were noted on 26th January, but WeBS counts on the Tees show a downward trend.
VC 63 north The only spring record was two at Swillington Ings on 15th May. Autumn passage started with one at Swillington Ings on 12th August followed by three over Roils Hill on 26th. In September Wintersett Res recorded three separate birds from 9th to 11th, Pugneys CP had one on 10th, Swillington Ings had singles on 9th and 14th one was at Whiteholme on 12th and Fairburn Ings RSPB had a total of 15 birds between the 10th and 28th the maximum being nine on 14th. In October, singles were noted on the 2nd at Swillington Ings and Fairburn Ings RSPB on 2nd, with two at the latter site on 6th and one was at Redlands Sand Quarry on 15th. **VC 63 south** Blacktoft Sands RSPB had three spring records with two on 19th April, two on 23rd April and one on 4th May. First autumn record was a single on 25th July. In August singles on 22nd and 23rd with five on 24th. In September there were singles on 10th and 20th, two on 11th and 17th. On 27th December three flew west. Recorded at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB on 18 dates. In the first half the year two records of singles on 6th February and 21st of April. In the autumn recorded between 7th of September and 9th of November with a maximum of 4 on 6th October. Southfield Res had singles on 13th August, 10th September and 4th and 7th October with 7 passing through east on 18th November. Further singles at Thrybergh CP on 26th April, 1st and 8th October and 1st and 8th November and Rother Valley CP 12th May and 6th October.
VC 64 One at Gouthwaite Res on 19th May and two on 25th July.
VC 65 Spring records consisted of a single at Nosterfield NR on 8th January, with two on 19th June. Four were at Lingham Lake on 5th February with singles on 23rd April and 29th May. In autumn, two were at Lingham Lake on 30th July and 13th August, with singles on 14th August, 17th September, 20th October and 4th/5th December. One bird was at Nosterfield NR on 17th September.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba* A

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce inland
WeBS Status - Int. threshold 1200: GB threshold 210 winter, 300 passage

Breeds on the high Arctic tundra from Canada east to Siberia, and Palearctic birds winter south to Africa. A very poor spring passage was noted this year in the county and a relatively early return passage in late summer suggesting breeding failures. Nationally has been declining.

WeBS counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Spurn	14	7	60	71	357	539	362	342	400	68	22	23
South Tees	55	193	164	186	302	6	227	233	77	100	253	25

VC 61 Can be seen in most months on the beaches. Almost exclusively recorded on the Humber at Spurn, where present almost daily throughout the year, although only recorded sporadically and in single figures during February and early March. Birds along the Humber were noted near Stone Creek (max. two on several dates), Paull Holme Strays (max. 15 on 20th June) and Welton/Brough (max. seven on 18th May). Most of the offshore passage took place in July and August with a maximum count of 27 on 29th July. At Filey, a peak of 90 was noted on 16th January. There were still 50 at the end of March, and 52 on 23rd April was the highest April figure for many years. Respectable figures were recorded in December, with 60 on 16th and 80 on 22nd. Southward migration in August saw 158 counted. Inland, three were at Watton NR 23rd March and one at Bank Island on 24th May, and also noted at North Cave Wetlands where one on 28th April, one in summer plumage on 26th May, and one on 9th September.
VC 62 Additional to the WeBS counts, the largest numbers in the Scarborough area were in winter, with a maximum count of 115 in south Bay, Scarborough on February 27th. There was a count of 79 on 24th May between Redcar and Saltburn.
VC 63 north Spring passage started with singles in the Wintersett area on 28th and Blackmoorfoot Res on 30th April. Twenty-two birds were recorded at Swillington Ings between 1st May and 14th June including a party of nine which flew west on the later date. A single was also noted in July. Pugneys CP had six

records including a party of three between 1st May and 5th June, a single was recorded at Fairburn Ings RSPB on 20th May and Whiteholme had six on various dates between 11th and 27th May, the largest party being four. Ringstone Edge Res hosted singles on 23rd May and 19th July, with the largest party in the autumn being five at Whiteholme on 6th September. **VC 63 south** Only recorded at Blacktoft Sands RSPB on two dates in May, with six on 16th and one on 17th. At Old Moor Wetlands RSPB singles in the spring on six dates between 30th April and 28th May. The only autumn record was one on 21st July. Southfield Res had one on 19th May, two on 1st and 2nd June and a third bird on 2nd, with one also on 14th. In August, two on 12th, one on 16th and the final record was one on the 11th September. Two were at Edderthorpe Flash on 15th June and one was there 30th September. Five were at Redmires Res on 20th May and a few singles at Rother Valley CP, Middleton Moor and Thrybergh CP between 24th May and 28th July.
VC 65 The Silt area at Lingham Lake attracted a good run of spring records. Two were present on 30th April, three on 1st May, and also in May, one on 23rd with nine on 24th raising to 15 on 25th, two on 28th and one from 29th to 31st (a good run for an inland site). Singles were also at Nosterfield NR on 1st May and Flask's Lake on 30th July.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta* A
Uncommon passage migrant, scarce in spring

Nearest populations are in Norway, followed by arctic Russia. Winters in southern Europe and Africa, passing through the county on passage, in very low numbers this year.
VC 61 Singles were seen in May at North Cave Wetlands on 15th and at Tophill Low on 15th/16th, with one to three at Paull Holme Strays from 17th to 20th. In August one was on the beach at South Landing, Flamborough on 10th and 11th. Four were seen at Filey, on 14th August and singles on 9th, 14th to 16th and 25th to 28th September. Just four were seen at Spurn between 12th August and 2nd October. One or two were at Paull Holme Strays from 4th to 5th September, and singles were at Brough Haven on 1st and 29th September and Hornsea Mere on 10th and 14th to 16th October.
VC 62 All records came from Scalby Lodge Pond. In spring two were seen on 20th and 21st May. Autumn as usual produced most sightings starting with two on 21st July and six different birds the following afternoon. One was seen in August and one in September.
VC 63 A summer-plumaged bird dropped in at Swillington Ings on 2nd June, three were found there on 1st September, and a single on 13th. A poor passage year at Blacktoft Sands RSPB with singles recorded regularly from 10th August until 9th October, with the only multiple record of two on 22nd August. Three were on Thorne Moors NNR on 21st September, two at Fairburn Ings RSPB on 22nd September, and singles were at Silverwood Lagoon between 5th and 8th September and at Redmires Res on 4th October and at Edderthorpe Flash on 23rd, 29th and 31st October. At Old Moor RSPB there were four records of singles on six dates in October between 1st and 29th, with one at Broomhill Flash on 1st November.
VC 65 All records came from the Nosterfield wetlands area. A single was at Lingham Lake on 15th May then one to five were present between 25th and 31st May. Just a single bird was seen at Lingham in autumn, on 10th September. Nosterfield NR had singles on 16th August and 10th September, with one on Flask's Lake on 10th September.

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii* A 14,9,7,33,14
Amber list: scarce passage migrant, mostly in spring; 307 previous records (334 birds)

This species breeds from Scotland eastward through Russia and small numbers each year stop over on passage at favoured inland locations in the county.
VC 61 An early single was at Filey Dams on 26th April (J & TGD *et al.*). One was at Tophill Low on 14th May and three were seen at North Cave Wetlands between 17th and 19th May, with one remaining to 21st (GAD *et al.*) and one was on Old Fall Flash on 4th June (IM).
VC 62 Two were on Coatham Marsh on 21st May (EML).
VC 63 Three records at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB during May: a single on 7th May and two from 16th to 21st May (PM: DMW *et al.*).
VC 64 One was at Eccup Res on 10th May (PRS).
VC 65 A summer-plumaged bird was at Nosterfield NR on 15th May (SPW) and one was also recorded there on 14th July (PJC).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos* A 10,7,12,4,11
Scarce migrant; 135 previous records (145 birds)

This species is the commonest of the Nearctic species occurring in the county.
VC 61 One was at BPNR roosting with Dunlin *Calidris alpina* on 7th September (BH), one lingered on Head Farm Pond, Flamborough from 9th to 12th September (PAL), a long-stayer was at North Cave Wetlands from 10th to 25th September (GAD *et al.*) and one was seen briefly on North Duffield Carrs on 16th September (RSS). A juvenile was seen to fly into Watton NR on 23rd October (JB: AL: Mr. & Mrs. J Thornton *et al.*). It was relocated the same day at TLNR where it remained long enough to be photographed.
VC 63 A juvenile at Blacktoft Sands RSPB from 4th to 17th September and another juvenile at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB 15th September (JHe *et.al.*).

VC 64 One was at Snaygill SW on 13th and 14th August (RC).
VC 65 All records involved juvenile birds. One was at Nosterfield NR on 10th August (PJC), another turned up on 24th to 27th September (SPW). Lingham Lake had a single on 17th/18th July (different to the NNR Bird) and on 24th (same as NNR bird) (RTP: SPW *et al.*).

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* A
Uncommon passage migrant; scarce in spring

A long-distance migrant from arctic Siberia, occurs in varying numbers each year on migration to and from south of the Mediterranean, and this year numbers were low.
VC 61 Not recorded on the Humber WeBS, but birds were recorded at other times along the Humber in low numbers. At Spurn there were only two spring records, both singles in May. It was also a poor autumn, with just a handful of records between 9th July and 21st September with a maximum count of nine on 11th September. Birds were recorded at Paull Holme Strays between 22nd July and 1st October, with eight on 4th and 14 on 16th September. Nine were seen at Stone Creek on 30th August and three were at Brough Haven on 1st September, with two on 2nd, ten on 17th, 11 on 18th with the last one on 11th October. Elsewhere, three were reported at Watton NR on the early date of 23rd March and one was at Bank Island from 16th to 23rd May. At TLNR, singles were seen on 7th August, 4th, 9th and 18th September and 25th October. At Filey Dams, the first two arrived on 24th August. After this there were singles on 1st and 4th September, another on 8th and 9th September, and finally one lingered from 27th September until 3rd October. Nine were seen briefly at North Cave Wetlands on 1st September with five on 14th, one remaining until the 15th.
VC 62 Just three records from the Scarborough area, all within a week: at Long Nab on 25th August, followed by two north there on 31st August and two at Scalby Lodge Pond on 1st September. Additionally, one was at South Gare on 10th September.
VC 63 There were two spring records at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB, different plumaged birds on 14th and 15th May. In autumn recorded almost daily between 1st September and 18th October all being juveniles. The year's highest counts were seven on 23rd of September and three on October 8th. No spring records at Blacktoft Sands RSPB but later birds were present almost daily from 25th July until 9th October giving monthly peaks of three on 28th July, 15 on 30th August, 50 on 3rd and 8th September and four on 9th October. Southfield Res had its first ever spring record with one on 18th May, followed by two there 25th September. Fairburn Ings RSPB hosted four juveniles from 21st to 29th August, with one on 6th, 10 on 10th, one on 12th, five on 19th and one from 22nd to 23rd September. Four were at Thornton Moor Res on 1st September and two juveniles on 2nd. Swillington Ings had one on 10th September. Also in September, one flew west at Rother Valley CP on 3rd at Edderthorpe Flash had one on 5th, five on 15th and two from 27th until 3rd October. Pugneys CP had a late bird on 15th October.
VC 64 Three were at Staveley NR on 2nd September, with two at Farnham GP on 5th.
VC 65 Single birds were at Nosterfield NR on 9th July, 10th August, 4th, 10th and 12th September with the last on 2nd October. Lingham Lake had singles on 28th May, 6th and 20th September with three on the 13th.

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima* A
Amber list: uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor to rocky coasts

Breeds inland in Scandinavian tundra or further north on Arctic coastlines from eastern Canada to Siberia, wintering on rocky coasts. Wintering numbers have been declining since the late 1980's, but the counts on the Yorkshire coast remain the highest south of Northumberland.
VC 61 The peak count this year at Filey was a disappointing 36 on 25th April, although the number around the Brigg had been in the low thirties from the start of the year. Only single figures recorded from May until November, when 21 appeared on 6th, and numbers increased to 25 in December on 10th and 16th. The wintering population at Flamborough peaked at 33 on 22nd January, with 18 on 18th November and 20 in December. Two were seen on 21st July. On the harbour slipway at Bridlington, 33 were noted on 13th February. One flew north at Spurn on 19th January and three south on 25th September.
VC 62 The high tide roost at Scarborough Harbour peaked at 120 on 14th February, with 62 in December. 45 were counted on the April 10th WeBS at South Gare, with 16 there on 12th May.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina* A
Amber list: scarce breeder on moors; common passage migrant/winter visitor. BBS 1/166
WeBS Status - Int. threshold 13300: GB threshold 5600 winter 2000 passage

No recent evidence of trends from the breeding range in the county, but a -56% decline in North Yorkshire uplands had been noted for 2001-02 (Sim *et al.*, 2005). Wintering numbers on the North Humber were slightly higher than in 2004, reversing a steady decline.

WeBS counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	8261	6151	11810	5780	10487	930	25838	7825	7331	4094	9482	10710
South Tees	0	35	5	0	21	1	22	3	198	46	42	35

VC 61 An exceptionally high July count of returning migrants was recorded, with 25838 in total on the north bank of the Humber, of which 14981 were at Spurn on the 24th July WeBS. Present on the Humber at Spurn throughout the year – the autumn passage occurred between mid-July to early September with another small surge of records in early November. 1237 pass south offshore, while 212 came in off the sea. Elsewhere, small numbers noted at Filey (up to 60), Flamborough (peak count 60), North Cave Wetlands (peak 50 on 30th April), Swinemoor, Tophill Low, Hornsea Mere and PHENR.
VC 62 Present in small numbers on the coast, with small passage noted including 109 past Marine Drive in one hour on 17th November. Just one inland record; one at Star Carr on 13th September.
VC 63 A breeding survey in the Halifax area revealed twenty to twenty five breeding pairs, with other birds recorded at other moorland reservoirs during the breeding season. Single pairs were noted displaying at Thornton Moor Res and at Warley Moor during the breeding season. Six were at Thornton Moor Res on 30th April, five on 2nd May, 31st July and 25th August with 14 on 31st reducing to eight on 1st September. Elsewhere small numbers were recorded on passage at most sites. Peak counts at Swillington Ings were 49 in May and 43 in September. Through the year at Southfield Res there were double figure counts on six dates, with a maximum count of 23 in September. Recorded in all months at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB with a maximum of 38 on 29th of October. Blacktoft Sands RSPB had records throughout the year with a peak count of 386 on 22nd August. Beal Carrs had a flock of 12 through west on 1st May and a last record of one, going east, on 22nd November. Twenty-four were on Thorne Moors NNR on 1st October.
VC 64 Six were at Snaygill Ings on 14th February, five at Hellifield Flash on 29th April, 17 at Farnham GP on 30th with 12 on 1st May. Ten were at Mossy Moor Res on 1st May, with a single at Grimwith Res on 25th July. Occasional birds were at Bellflask Quarry, Gouthwaite Res, Hay-a-Park GP, Nicholson's Lagoons and Staveley NR.
VC 65 Lingham Lake held the largest counts: on 30th April, two parties of 18 and 29 dropped in from the west. Good numbers were present throughout May with maxima as follows: 26 on 1st, 35 on 25th 29 on 28th, 34 on 29th and 27 on 30th. There were 12 present on the 21st August. A further movement involving mainly the nominate race *alpina* occurred from 1st October to early November, consisting of 15 to 20 birds on several dates. One to three birds were at Nosterfield NR from January to April, when passage started, with maxima of 20 on 2nd May. Birds were recorded to the year's end with 15 *alpina* on 1st October the autumn peak count. Semer Water had a single record of four on13th June.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER *Tryngites subruficollis* A 0,1,1,1,3

Rare migrant; 18 previous records (16 birds)

Breeds in Alaska and north-west Canada, wintering in South America. A scarce visitor to the UK.

VC 61 Three records this year, all from the Spurn area. The first spent most of 20th July at BPNR (SB: CM *et al.*), then one flew south at the Narrows on 7th September (AAH: AR). Finally, one was found in a roadside field near Grange Farm in Kilnsea on 10th October (GG: TL *et al.*).

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax* A

Amber list: uncommon passage migrant & scarce winter visitor; has occasionally bred. BBS 1/166

England supports a very small population and most records relate to passage birds from Fennoscandia and Russia that winter in Africa, although over-wintering has been increasingly noted in the county.
VC 61 Just 18 noted on Humber WeBS all year. The largest counts usually come from the Lower Derwent valley, but the only report received was in December when 40 were seen at Wheldrake Ings. Seen at Filey between 19th March and 27th September, with a maximum of eight seen at the Dams on 16th August. Recorded at Spurn between 27th March and 25th September, with just four spring records then 44 bird/days from 2nd July and 25th September. 12 flew south on 26th August and eight came in on 14th September. At North Cave Wetlands, recorded between 1st May and 12th December, the highest count being nine on 24th August. Elsewhere the highest counts were seven at Brough Airfield Marsh on 27th August, six at Tophill Low on 4th September, four at Hornsea Mere on 15th October and two at PHENR in April and August.
VC 62 Recorded at Scalby Lodge Pond where a total of five birds seen in spring, and again between 30th June and 27th September, with up to three birds regularly seen in August and September. Six were at Scaling Dam in August. Two passage birds south past Long Nab in September.
VC 63 The spring records were one at Swillington Ings on 22nd March and up to seven birds noted irregularly until April at Blacktoft Sands. A minimum of fourteen birds were seen during the autumn at Swillington from 25th June to 8th October with four being the highest count. Two were at Fairburn Ings RSPB on 2nd July, with a peak count of three in August, a maximum of two in September, with one remaining until 13th October. Other sightings include two at Pugneys CP on 23rd August and two at Northowram on 29th December. Old Moor Wetlands RSPB had no spring records and the first of the autumn were two on 24th and 25th June. In July one arrived on 30th with birds noted daily thereafter until 14th of October. The highest count of the year was 22 on 10th of August. In autumn at Blacktoft, present daily on lagoons from late June until October, most significant counts include 78 on 19th September and 75 on 28th October. Much more irregular visitor during November and December with a flock of 36 on 25th November being the highest count. Ten circled Beal Carrs on 15th August and in December, two were at Thornton Moor Res on 15th.
VC 64 Singles were at Nicholson's Lagoons in March and Bellflask Quarry on 15th May, six were at Staveley

NR on 15th August, one at Farnham GP on 1st September and in December, two were at Farnham GP on 20th and Northowram on 29th.
VC 65 Nosterfield NR recorded small numbers of one to four from March to October with a maximum of six on 17th September. Lingham Lake had predominantly single records between 19th March and 2nd April and again in autumn from 12th July to 15th October, with maxima of five on 14th August and nine on 17th September.

JACK SNIPE *Lymnocryptes minimus* A
Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 1/166

Breeds from northern Fennoscandia east to Siberia and winters from maritime Western Europe south to Africa.
VC 61 At least two wintered at North Cave Wetlands from 1st January until 1st March. Also in January one was at Tophill Low on 3rd, one at Fraisthorpe on 14th, two on Beacon Lane from 15th to 21st and four at Filey Dams on 16th. Singles were occasionally seen at Spurn between 14th January and 26th March, and singles at Filey on 6th, 16th and 19th March and 12th April. The first of the autumn was at Flamborough Head on 16th September. Then recorded at Spurn between 17th September and 29th December: – there were three days in October with more than three birds present, with seven on 15th, four on 17th and five on 19th. Elsewhere, three were regularly seen at BPNR from 25th September to the year end; one at North Cave Wetlands on 27th September. two on 18th October and two again on 31st December; one at Filey from 5th to 15th October and two there on 17th and 19th and one on 1st November; one at Flamborough on 9th October; one at Tophill Low from 14th to 16th October and two at Hornsea Mere on 15th October, one remaining to 16th. Further inland, the first returning bird in the LDNNR was on 30th September. Up to 12 birds were reported and seven trapped at North Duffield Carrs in October, with 17 at Bubwith Ings on 25th.
VC 62 Singles were at Long Nab on 1st January and 20th March. An early autumn arrival was one feeding at Star Carr on 28th August. Autumn migrants were recorded from Scalby Lodge Pond on 11th and Boulby on 21st October, and an impressive nine were flushed by a quad bike at Scalby Lodge Pond on 7th November. One was at Coatham Marsh on 16th November.
VC 63 Single birds were seen regularly during the first half of the year at Wintersett Res, Fairburn Ings RSPB, Pugneys CP and Swillington Ings with four noted during March the largest count. There were four sightings at Soil Hill between 5th January and 10th April, one or two birds at Rodley NR from January to 30th March, with the last record for the first half of the year being two late birds on 30th May at Elland GP. Birds returned in October with two at Wintersett on 8th, with further singles on 15th and 19th, and singles at Ringstone Edge Res on 9th and 15th and at Soil Hill on 16th, 20th, 24th 26th and 29th. Elsewhere, five were at North Ings on 10th and Pugneys CP held seven on 29th. In November, Swillington Ings had at least ten, one was at Soil Hill on 10th and the last was a single flushed by shooting beaters on 31st December at Beal Carrs.
VC 64 Singles were at Staveley NR on eight dates between 15th January and 18th March. Two at Otley Wetland on 3rd and 5th February with three on 12th; two at Little Studley Meadows on 16th, one at Nicholson's Lagoons on 21st and two at Otley Wetland on 25th. First returning birds were at Esholt SW and Farnham GP on 2nd October where another on 10thand one at Burley Moor on 22nd. Singles were seen at Staveley NR on three dates from 10th to 18th October. Farnham GP on 14th, Arncliffe on 21st, two at Otley Wetland on 16th December, a single at Bellflask Quarry on 27th.

COMMON SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago* A
Amber list: scarce breeding resident; fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 23/166

The only recent information on breeding trends is a decline of 45% found on 29 wet meadows surveyed in Yorkshire in 1982 and again in 2002 (Wilson *et al.*, 2005). In 2002, 37 sites were surveyed and 91 nesting birds were found. A 5% decline in North Yorkshire uplands was also noted 2001-2 (Sim *et al.*, 2005).
VC 61 Drumming birds were noted in the Lower Derwent Valley, although numbers were not reported. Drumming was also noted at Brough Airfield Marsh, where possibly five pairs bred, and Tophill Low, where perhaps one pair bred. It is also present at Swinemoor, where under-recorded. Usually 20+ could be seen at North Cave Wetlands, where up to 100 were present throughout September. Peak counts elsewhere included 42 at PHENR and 39 at Tophill Low in September, 38 at Watton NR and 28 at Brough Airfield both in March. Numbers peaked at Filey Dams with 28 on 6th November. At Spurn, between 15th July and 30th November a total of 156 flew south and 95 came in off the sea. The maximum count on the Humber at Spurn was 30 on 29th December.
VC 62 Small numbers were wintering in suitable habitat in the early months of the year. Star Carr held good numbers, 45 on 29th August and 13th September and up to 35 in October. Scalby Lodge Pond often held migrants, with high counts of 50 on 29th October and 35 on 29th November.
VC 63 north Most locations reported small numbers with up to 20 during the winter months at Swillington Ings and Fairburn Ings RSPB, while the largest counts were at Wintersett Res with 46 on 21st March. Some birds lingered during the summer months there, but there was no evidence of breeding. Thirty were at Cononley Ings on 30th January and fifteen were at Throstle Nest Farm on 13th April. Day totals of between 12 and 28 birds on five dates were recorded at Thornton Moor and between 11 and 25 birds on four occasions at Cold Edge Dams during August to October. Cononley Ings held 13 in August, 10 in September, 69 in October,

111 in November decreasing to 23 in December. On the 10th September there was a day long passage at Swillington Ings with at least 180 birds moving west in small parties. At Fairburn Ings RSPB 53 were noted on 22nd September and 40 at Ringstone Edge Res. on 15th October was the largest flock seen in the Halifax area. **VC 63 south** Recorded throughout the year at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB, with a maximum of 76 on the 24th September. In May fifteen drumming birds were recorded from five locations. At Blacktoft Sands RSPB up to 30 present during both winter periods, and a good passage was noted during the autumn. There was an August peak of 150 on 25th. A second wave of birds passed through in September peaking at 100 on 25th. Beal Carrs had 27 in flight on 27th August and 22 in flight on 11th and 24th October. The population at Potteric Carr is now much lower than previously but it is hoped habitat development will help to reverse the decline.
VC 64 Twelve displaying birds were at Whetstone Gate on 10th June and also birds at Barden Scale during the same period. Fifteen were at Bishop Monkton Ings on 13th August. Other counts are shown below:

Winter counts VC 64	J	F	M	A		S	O	N	D
Little Studley Meadows	20	32	21	-		-	-	-	-
Nicholson's Lagoons	-	20	10	-		12	13	-	-
Farnham GP	18	20	20	-		17	38	15	-
Staveley NR	24	-	-	30		-	28	36	-

VC 65 No records of breeding or displaying birds were received. Outside the breeding season Nosterfield regularly had small numbers, with peak counts of 16 in March, 12 in August and September and ten in October with finally 12 in December. Flask's Lake had maximum count of 18 on 18th September.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER *Limnodromus scolopaceus* A 0,0,0,2,1

Vagrant: 9 previous records

Breeds in north-east Siberia and north-west Alaska and winters in southern USA and Central America.
VC 61 Hot on the heels of two at Spurn last year came another, again a late bird, seen on 2nd October (RJS).

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola* A

Amber list: uncommon breeding resident, passage migrant/winter visitor. BBS 0/166

The main breeding areas are Fennoscandia and Russia, and immigrants from these areas are noted on the Yorkshire coast and winter in woodlands. Small numbers breed.
VC 61 Roding birds were noted at Burton Agnes (1), Hornsea Mere and Houghton Woods (3). Winter and early spring records came from Hornsea Mere, Hull, Kiplingcotes, North Cave Wetlands, Paull, PHENR, Tophill Low, and Wetwang. On the coast, two singles were seen at Filey in March, three at Flamborough on 20th and four other singles that month, with singles on 4th and 11th April. Just a handful was seen at Spurn to 31st March. One was at Flamborough on 10th September, with 26 there on 11 dates in October and nine birds in November. Immigration was noted from 14th October at Filey with one on 14th, two on 15th, six on 16th, eight on 17th, seven on 18th and six on 19th. After that there were just six more birds (four singles and a two) from late October to mid November. The first of the autumn at Spurn was unfortunately found dead at the Point on 14th October. Eleven were present the next day, then seen almost daily until 20th November, with a maximum count of 15 on 17th October. Several birds were seen to come in off the sea during November including six on 14th. Singles were recorded at Ulrome and Welton on 16th October.
VC 62 A widespread breeding bird in the forests.
VC 63 Most areas recorded single birds from January to March and again from October to the end of the year. Evidence of possible breeding activity came from the Halifax area where two were observed roding on 28th March at Castle Carr and at Jumble Hole Clough where single birds were thought to be roding in April, with two seen in June. On Thorne Moors NNR, singles were seen in January, March, October and November with three young raised in July. Occurrences at Potteric Carr seem to have declined.
VC 64 A bird flushed from four eggs at Gouthwaite Res, was the only nesting record. Roding was recorded from Timble Ings and St Ives with a maximum of four birds. Singles were also recorded at Burley, Cam Gill, Crossflatts, Fewston, Firth Fell, Grass Wood, Hebden Beck, Lower Grass Wood, Menston, Mossdale, Otley Wetland, Round Hill and Strid Wood with three on Blubberhouses Moor.
VC 65 No records of roding birds received, with just the occasional record of single birds in winter.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa* A

Red list: rare breeder; uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor
WeBS Status - Int. threshold 350: GB threshold 150

There has been a large increase in the wintering population of the Icelandic *islandica* race in the UK, and on the Humber in particular, since the mid 1980's, although flocks seen on the Yorkshire side are often

birds visiting from the main south bank population. The new alignment at Paull is proving attractive to this species. Some birds of the declining nominate western Eurasian form *limosa* also occur on passage and have occasionally attempted to breed.

WeBS counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	10	239	537	150	0	76	70	101	76	38	90	586

VC 61 The largest wintering flock in the early months on the North Humber was seen on Paull Holme Strays, when 200 in January increased to 583 on 15th April. However, later counts at this site included 1750 on 19th July. 699 on 2nd August and 1594 on 11th September, with 18 still present in December. A single pair lingered at a site in the LDNNR (where they bred in 2004), from late April until 19th June. Four birds were present into late November, returning in February 2006, suggesting birds may be wintering in the area. Passage of the *islandica* race in the LDNNR totalled 1663 bird days, with counts including 67 birds on 30th March, 76 present 12th to 14th April, with 142 over on 11th and 87 over on 17th April. At Brough Airfield Marsh 90 were roosted on 1st July, with declining numbers during that month, and others occasionally through to eight on 25th December. Recorded at North Cave Wetlands between 15th April and 25th December, with peak counts of 26 on 27th June and on 5th July; at Tophill Low from July to 23rd December, peaking at 13 in August; at Watton NR (one 21st April to 1st May); at PHENR (one 20th October); and at Brough Haven (max. 35 in July).
On the coast, the first at Filey Dams was on 28th March, then three in June, two in July, (although 32 flew south on 13th July), a few scattered records in August, many records of up to eight throughout September and smaller numbers throughout October and November, with one remaining until 4th December. Only one was reported at Flamborough, on 11th August. Recorded in ones and twos at Spurn between 22nd January and 5th May, the first returning birds were seven on 27th June, and small numbers were then occasionally seen to late December, including 15 in on 25th August. Between 20th July and 29th November, 85 flew south, with 60 south on 11th August a particularly good count.
VC 62 Recorded mostly from Scalby Lodge Pond between 7th July and 3rd October, with a maximum of five, but unusually one wintered with the Curlew flock there from 5th December to February 2006. Just three were seen at Coatham Marsh, in July.
VC 63 north Birds were recorded at Swillington Ings from 22nd March to 25th November, with monthly totals of 153 in April, 37 in July, 15 in August, 10 in September and 11 in October. The Wintersett area had 27 on 13th April with a total of 12 birds in the autumn between 31st July and 27th November. Twenty-two birds were at Redlands Sand Quarry on 12th April, with six late birds there from 19th to 27th November. At Fairburn Ings RSPB birds were noted from 17th March until 18th December with June being the only blank month. Monthly totals were: April 78, May 22, July 37, August 31, September 15, November 4, with two in December. A total of fifteen passed through Ringstone Edge Res between 4th and 23rd July the largest party being ten. Eight were at Thornton Moor Res on 30th August. **VC 63 south** First was a single at Ingbirchworth Res on 26th March. Southfield Res had just two spring records with a flock of 27 north on 24th April and seven west on 10th May: in August nine flew east on 12th and six flew east on 18th, and there were other sightings with one unusually on 16th December. Recorded throughout the year at Blacktoft Sands RSPB, mostly in small numbers, though autumn had higher counts with the year's peak count of 284 on 11th August. *C*.40 were at Auckley Common on 18th April; 29 arrived at Beal Carrs on 6th July and 16 stayed briefly at Potteric Carr on 16th October.
VC 64 As part of a spectacular movement on 16th April, 50 in varying plumages were at Staveley NR and 42 circled Farnham GP. One was at Hellifield Flash on 16th and 17th April. Thereafter one or two at Staveley NR between 5th August and 2nd October and a single bird at Hay-a-Park on 18th December.
VC 65 As noted above, a noticeable passage of *islandica* occurred on 16th April with 58 arriving at Nosterfield NR at 0810 and leaving at 1350 when flushed by a hunting Peregrine. Also on 16th, Lingham Lake had 65 drop in at 0820 and eleven were present the next day. Thereafter, Nosterfield NR had one to four birds on several dates in April and May. Four were present on 19th June and 3rd July then 27 on 4th and 11 on 6th, six to nine birds on six September dates and finally one 21st October. Lingham Lake had two 1st May, four on 2nd, nine on 9th, one on 25th, with four on 2nd/3rd July. A single bird was at Cleasby GP on 8th May.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica* A

Amber list: common passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce inland
WeBS Status - Int. threshold 1200: GB threshold 620

Breeds in the arctic tundra, the nominate race *lapponica* wintering on estuaries around the North Sea. Winters on the Humber, but many birds are thought to leave in February for the Wadden Sea. Numbers may be declining slightly.

WeBS counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	2333	276	377	28	55	107	56	80	135	55	1032	1291
South Tees	47	13	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	25	10	18

VC 61 Most frequently recorded from the sandier parts of the outer Humber, with the Welwick SPA saltmarsh

roost holding 1150 birds on January 15th, on which date 1066 were on the Cherry Cob Sands section. 252 was an unusual count from Paull Holme Strays on 29th June. In the second winter period, 1115 were at Welwick on 11th December. Reported in small numbers on the coast at Flamborough and Filey, where more frequent than in recent years. Inland, singles were at Brough Airfield Marsh in February, April and July, with four on 28th September and two on 11th December; at PHENR on 17th April and 10th July; at North Cave Wetlands on 26th April with three there on 9th May.
VC 62 Occasionally seen March to June, seen more frequently on coastal passage July to November with highest counts of 11 and 14 south past Long Nab.
VC 63 This species have become much scarcer in recent years with only a few records. Two flew over Southfield Res and possibly the same over Swillington Ings on 1st May, with one at Southfield Res on 24th. At Blacktoft Sands RSPB it was a poor year with singles on 8th July, 9th, 12th and 14th September. Twenty-five flew west at Rother Valley CP on 28th July, one flew north on 19th August at Wintersett Res, one was at Denholme Clough on 17th and two at Redmires Res on 22nd September and two were at Ringstone Edge Res on 8th November.
VC 64 Twelve were at Farnham GP on 1st May and singles at Nicholson's Lagoons on 18th July.
VC 65 One moved between Nosterfield NR and Lingham Lake on 8th January, with another at Nosterfield NR on 10th September.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus* A
Amber list: uncommon to fairly common spring and autumn passage migrant

Breeds from northeast Greenland east to Siberia, with a small population in northern Scotland, migrating overland and along the coast to winter in Africa.
VC 61 Noted at Spurn between 3rd April and 30th October, where recorded daily throughout the summer, with passage in the spring including 49 south, 26 north, 30 in and 18 out east. Returning birds started to arrive from late June with southerly passage offshore of 375 between 27th June and 24th September. Just 16 bird/days recorded in spring at Filey from 27th April, and return passage from 12th June, but a respectable total of 230 were logged passing south between 7th July and 1st September, with July providing the great majority (195) and the highest day count (60 on 13th). Noted at Flamborough from 30th April, with 30 on nine dates in May, and regularly from July to 12th October. Peak counts on the Humber WeBS were 32 on 8th May, and 67 on 24th July, 58 of these in the Spurn sector. An inland passage involving a favoured roosting site and feeding area was again recorded at Wheldrake Ings from 10th April to mid-May. Fourteen roosted on 13th April, 72 on 25th and 139 on 29th April, including a 'dark-rumped' bird, with 15 northwest over on 9th May. Regularly seen at North Cave Wetlands between 25th April and 11th May, with a maximum of eight birds on 3rd May and one on 20th August. Numbers at Swinemoor peaked at 16 on 29th April.
A female caught on 2nd May in the Lower Derwent Valley and fitted with a satellite transmitter left the valley on 12th and was subsequently recorded on the Icelandic breeding grounds. She left Iceland on 1st August reaching Brittany by 5th for a three-day staging, then the coast of Morocco by 18th, Senegal by 26th and the Guinea wintering grounds by 30th.
VC 62 Recorded between 23rd April and 16th October with 30 plus seen in spring and 102 in autumn, the largest flock being 15 in Jackson's Bay on 16th July. The last three were at South Gare.
VC 63 north In April singles flew over Fairburn Ings RSPB on 14th and 23rd with five on 28th and two on 29th. Further singles were at Pugneys CP and Thornton Moor Res on 20th, Cold Edge Dams on 24th and Swillington Ings on 30th. Pugneys CP noted a single on 2nd May with three on 6th, four were at Swillington Ings on 1st and singles were at Ringstone Edge Res on 3rd and 8th May. A party of seven arrived at Wintersett on 6th May reducing in number until two were left on 10th. Blackmoorfoot Res had two on 1st, four on 3rd and 11th May. Singles were also noted at Fairburn Ings RSPB on 7th May, 5th June, 17th July, 23rd July, 23rd and 25th August. Singles were at Thornton Moor Res on 20th, 23rd and 31st July, 4th and 19th August with four on 21st and 22nd. Also in July, singles were seen at Withens Clough on 25th, Pugneys CP on 31st, and Blackmoorfoot Res on 24th and 30th, with two at Swillington Ings on 15th. Finally in August one was at Whiteholme on 5th and three were at Swillington Ings on 12th. **VC 63 south** Old Moor Wetlands RSPB recorded singles on eight days in spring between 9th April and 20th May. The only autumn record there and last of the year was one on 26th July. At Blacktoft Sands RSPB only four records in the year with one on 19th April, four on 3rd May, one on 25th June, and one on 25th July. One flew over Potteric Carr on 24th April and singles also seen at Thrybergh CP, Silverwood Lagoon and Rother Valley CP with two at Thrybergh on 29th April. Three were at Beal Carrs on 10th May and at Blaxton on 3rd July.
VC 64 Two flew over Otley Wetland on 20th April, three at Dallowgill Moor on 2nd May, one at Otley Wetland on 6th, three at Timble Ings on 8th and one at Staveley NR on 9th, 11th and 15th. Singles were at Staveley NR and Farnham GP on 24th and Ripon Parks on 25th August and Nicholson's Lagoons on 1st September.
VC 65 The first spring passage bird was a single at Lingham Lake on 16th April, two were at Nosterfield NR on 23rd with one there on two at Lingham Lake on 23rd. In May, three were at Nosterfield with two at Lingham, three at Cleasby GP and single over High Batts NR on 1st, with three at Lingham Lake and one at Nosterfield NR on 8th. One at Cleasby GP on 12th was the last for the spring. A single over High Batts NR on 29th August was the only autumn record.

CURLEW *Numenius arquata* A

Amber list: uncommon breeder; fairly common passage migrant/winter visitor
BBS 82/166: -23% (-19) decrease 1994-2005, 20% (8) increase 2004-5
WeBS Status - Int. threshold 4200: GB threshold 1500

Breeds from Ireland to central Siberia, including upland Yorkshire. 2005 saw a recovery year for the breeding population, especially in West Yorkshire, after a steady and constant decline, but the populations per surveyed square in the moorland strongholds of north and north-west are still falling.
The 2002 lowland grassland survey found 67 pairs, but this signified a 12% decrease from 1982 (Wilson *et al.*, 2005). Birds are present all year along the whole of the Humber, but a declining wintering population is at odds with national trends.

WeBS counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	2700	1587	1930	1523	192	1058	691	1837	2385	1502	2051	2391
South Tees	13	2	84	40	0	1	14	110	75	55	35	38

VC 61 The majority (85%) of the Humber WeBS count records was from Paull eastwards, with the Welwick SPA sector recording the largest counts followed by Paull Holme Strays. Birds feed in the fields as well as on the inter-tidal mud. Non-breeders remain in summer, with probably failed breeders swelling numbers in June. Recorded regularly on the coast at Filey and Flamborough with passage noted in double figures from July to September and occasional movements or influxes in November and December, although 44 were noted wintering in the Filey area in December. Inland, breeds along the Market Weighton Canal and in the Lower Derwent Valley and present all year at PHENR and at Tophill except April and June.
VC 62 Breeding was reported from Fylingdales Moor, Folkton Carr, Ganton Carr, Low Marishes, Flixton Carr, Binnington Carr, and Willerby Carr. An ever present species around Scalby Lodge, 45 on 26th January the peak winter count and up to 38 in July and August. Return passage at Long Nab was first detected on 12th June, peak movements being 49 on 27th June and 30 on 10th September.
VC 63 Birds began returning to breed from the beginning of February with 84 noted at Walshaw Dean, Halifax on 13th. Twenty five pairs were located at Shackleton Knoll, Halifax and it was thought two pairs bred in the fields near Anglers CP and Hare Park Wood. Birds were noted in most months from February at Fairburn Ings RSPB with 18 in February and 20 in December the highest counts. Two pairs bred at Swillington Ings with the regular wintering flock having built up from two birds fifteen years ago to 49 in January and 50 in late December. Breeds in very small numbers in the lower Aire Valley and five pairs bred at Throstle Nest Farm where only one chick was reared. Birds were recorded on seventeen dates at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB this year. The highest count of the year was six on the 7th July. At Blacktoft Sands RSPB birds were seen regularly passing west on moult migration in June and July with a peak count of 52 on 20th June. A late bird flew south east at Beal Carrs on 16th October.
VC 64 Counts in January included forty at Nunwick Fields on 17th, 250 at Denton Park on 22nd, 200 at Askwith on 25th and 130 at Burley on 30th. In February, 150 were at Bellflask Quarry on 4th, 80 at Nunwick Fields on 18th and 132 at Haverah Park on 28th with 217 at Farnhill Ings on 3rd March, 120 on 16th and 200 at Haverah Park on 14th. Fifteen breeding pairs were at Haverah Park. 100 birds roosted at Kex Gill Quarry on 7th July, 100 at Bellflask Quarry during October to December and 200 in the Otley area on 22nd December.
VC 65 Most breeding records were on high ground. On low ground two pairs breed at Nosterfield NR, one successfully, and at Flask's Lake a pair fledged two young. Nosterfield had one to nine birds throughout the year, with a marked increase in February when up to 30 birds were present. More birds were at Lingham Lake, with 94 on 16th January and 26 on 19th March and a peak count of 133 on 13th August. September's peak was 124 on 21st. with peaks of 49 in October, 16 in November and 40 in December. Flask's Lake highest count was 82 on 10th December. The peak count at Bolton–on-Swale was 175 in February.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus* A

Amber list: uncommon passage migrant; occasionally over-winters

A passage migrant from northern Scandinavia and subarctic regions further east.
VC 61 WeBS counts recorded six birds on the upper Humber in April and June at Faxfleet/Broomfleet, and three on the outer Humber in August and September. One was at Wheldrake Ings on 12th March and probably the same bird at various LDNNR sites between 5th and 27th April, and two were at North Cave Wetlands on 2nd May with another on 19th June. There were only two spring records at Spurn: singles on 23rd March and 26th May. An impressive array of Paull Holme Strays records included singles on 20th June, 12th – 15th July, 26th July - 1st August, 4th – 7th, 14th and 20th – 21st September, two on 2nd, three on 8th and 22nd and four on 31st October, with one on 10th November. Singles were recorded at Flamborough on 29th July, and between 17th September and 1st October, whilst at Spurn there were just ten autumn records between 20th August and 22nd October. At Filey, the first record was of two at Carr Naze Pond on 31st August and the only other was one overhead on 6th October.
VC 62 It's becoming quite a rarity, and there were no records from south Cleveland. Just two records from

the Scarborough area: one at Wykeham South Lake on 25th May, and one at Scalby Mills on 11th September.
VC 63 Blacktoft Sands RSPB had records throughout the year with up to six in February. Peak count in spring was of 10 on 1st May. These birds soon departed north leaving a single non-breeding plumage individual to remain on the reserve all summer. The first summer plumaged birds were back on 19th June and the year's peak count of 12 came on 15th September. Nine remained until November with five still present at the year end. Elsewhere in spring, one was at Redlands Sand Quarry on 12th June and two adults in breeding plumage on 19th June were at Swillington Ings and two summer-plumaged adults were also at Rother Valley CP on 19th June. At Old Moor Wetlands RSPB there were two adults on 19th June, three juveniles on 10th August and a juvenile from 2nd to 22nd October. Two juveniles were at Swillington Ings on 5th September while Southfield Res had singles east on 10th and west on 18th October.
VC 64 Single birds were at Bilton on 30th July and Staveley NR on 20th September.
VC 65 Single birds were at Lingham Lake on 18th June, Nosterfield NR on 19th/20th June and at the latter site on 10th September.

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus* A

Amber list: uncommon breeder; common passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 26/166
WeBS Status - Int. threshold 1300: GB threshold 1200

Small numbers breed in saltmarsh along the Humber, on a few at grassy upland sites, and some wet meadows, but nationally the breeding population is declining. The lowland grassland survey of 37 sites in Yorkshire in 2002 found an 11% decrease from 1982, with 119 pairs located (Wilson *et al.*, 2005). It is a widespread species in autumn and winter on the Humber, with stable and internationally significant numbers (UK's third most important site).

WeBS counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	2819	1326	2256	3222	226	151	1378	2434	2027	1628	3411	3211
South Tees	464	606	344	320	0	0	55	177	259	371	420	412

VC 61 Two pairs bred at North Cave Wetlands, fledging two young each and also bred at Welwick saltmarsh. Most numerous in both winters on the outer Humber in the Cherry Cob Sands sector. Monthly maxima at Spurn were 4000 in September and 4500 in October. Between July and early November, 302 flew south offshore. It was a fairly poor year at both Filey and Flamborough, with just 38 the spring maximum on the Brigg and 75 there on 16th December. Fifty-two were on the beach between Atwick and Barmston on 23rd January.
VC 62 A pair bred at Moorsholm Moor and a pair was established at Scaling Dam. Numerous along the coast in the winter and autumn, but the autumn peak on the Tees was the lowest for 17 years. High tide counts at Scalby Lodge Pond reached 220 on 3rd January and 26th December, and a good count of 420 on 29th March.
VC 63 A breeding moorland survey in the Halifax area found eight pairs in suitable habitat including one pair at Ovenden Moor with chicks. Two pairs were at a site near Cononley. At least one pair bred in the Wintersett area, three pairs bred at Swillington Ings with seven chicks noted, and one pair was on territory at Pugneys CP, but there was no proof of breeding. On 9th January 43 were at Skelton Lake, with a further eleven at nearby Astley Lake, Swillington Ings, with a count of 45 at Skelton Lake on 13th March and ten at Thornton Moor Res on 1st April. Wintering birds began to reappear from late October, reaching a high of 45 at Skelton Lake in December. Recorded in all months at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB, with up to 20 birds remaining in the area to over-winter. The spring peaks were 24 on 2nd May, and the year's maximum was 25 recorded on the 5th June. In May eleven pairs were in territory, with four pairs confirmed to hatch a minimum of seven young. At Blacktoft Sands RSPB peak numbers included up to 80 in April, 157 in August and 120 in October. Beal Carrs' peak count was 22 on 16th January and 18th February.
VC 64 Bred on Hawksworth Moor (2 pairs), Beamsley Moor, Ling Park plantation (five pairs) and Mossy Moor Res (two pairs with young). A juvenile was seen at Bingley Moor and a nest predated at Otley Wetland. Overall 15 pairs hatched young but only 50% survived. One to three birds were at Nicholson's Lagoons and Hay-a-Park in January and February, November and December; Gouthwaite Res in February and Haverah Park in November and nine at Snaygill SW on 24th June.
VC 65 Four birds wintered at the Nosterfield NR/Lingham Lake area through to March when numbers increased at Nosterfield NR to 33 on 28th, with a peak count of 57 on 20th June. There were 13 breeding pairs at Nosterfield NR that hatched young and of these about 50% fledged.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* A

Uncommon passage migrant; occasionally winters

Breeds in north and west Scotland east through northern Scandinavia to Kamchatka. Although wintering in the UK in record numbers, birds generally pass through the county to winter further south.
VC 61 On the Humber, peak WeBS counts were 14, 19 and 15 in July, August and September respectively. The first of the year at Spurn flew south on 22nd March, with the next on 27th April. Low numbers, mostly

singles, were then seen until 10th October with a maximum of five on 29th July. The first at Filey was on 12th May when a single flew north. After that, there were singles at the Dams in May and June before the return passage from July to September, with a peak of four on 10th September and the last was a late individual on 18th October. Birds were recorded at Flamborough on just three dates in May, August and September. Inland, recorded at Brough Airfield Marsh, Hornsea Mere (max. nine on 18th September), North Cave Wetlands (max. four), PHENR, Routh, Swinemoor and Tophill Low (max. three in August). The last was at North Cave Wetlands on 10th November.

VC 62 The first of two spring sightings was one flying east over Wykeham Lakes on 11th April. This was followed by a single at Scalby Lodge Pond on 14th May. Recorded in autumn between 7th July and 21st October, with Scalby Lodge Pond most favoured with a maximum count of three, but other records came from Cromer Point, Long Nab, Scalby Mills, Star Carr and Wykeham Lakes.

VC 63 At Blacktoft Sands RSPB a light spring passage during April with singles on 15th and 19th and in May one on 1st, two on 12th and 13th and one on 16th. Swillington Ings recorded eight individuals between 15th April and 25th June. In May, Anglers CP had one on 6th, Pugneys CP on 9th and Fairburn Ings RSPB had singles on 13th and 19th and from 10th to 13th June. In the Halifax area there were six records for the period 5th June to 17th August. The first returning birds at Blacktoft were nine on 14th June, then present daily until 9th October with a peak of 12 on 27th August. A late bird was recorded on 9th November. In July, birds were seen at Pugneys CP on 11th, Cold Edge Dams on 20th and Thornton Moor Res on 31st. Other autumn records included four sightings in the Wintersett area from 16th July to 25th August. Fairburn Ings RSPB noted birds from July to 1st November with monthly counts of four in July, six in August and five in September. Swillington Ings had at least fifteen individuals in the period from 8th July to 12th October with a maximum of five on 30th July. Elsewhere, in August singles were at Warley Res on 8th and at Thornton Moor Res from 8th to 13th and 21st. In September: one was at Doe Park Res on 8th, one at Cononley Lead Mine Pond on 16th and a single at Thornton Moor Res on 29th.

VC 64 A poor spring passage with only single birds between 15th March and 15th May. In autumn, single birds in July were at Gouthwaite Res on 7th and John O'Gaunt's Res on 12th. In September: one at Grimwith Res on 12th, with six at Staveley NR and three at Bishop Monkton Ings on 13th.

VC 65 There were five spring records of single birds at Nosterfield/Lingham Lake sites between 18th March and 15th May. The first returning bird was on 28th July at Nosterfield NR then ones and twos regularly at this site until 3rd October, with maxima of three on 28th July and 10th September. Nearby Lingham had three records in this period - the maxima were four on 14th August. Singles were recorded from High Batts on 30th August and 9th September.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS *Tringa flavipes* **A** 1,0,1,0,2

Vagrant; 8 previous records

A Nearctic wader that winters from southern USA to southern South America. First recorded in the county in 1973.

VC 61 An adult was seen and photographed at Tophill Low NR from 25th to 29th August (EJH: PWI: RL *et al.).* A first-winter bird showed at the very front of the main pool of Filey Dams from 1130-1230hrs on 28th September (BHa), subsequently identified from the superb photographs (see colour plate).

Lesser Yellowlegs Tophill Low NR Photo: Iain Leach

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus* A

Amber list: uncommon passage migrant, more numerous in autumn

Breeds in the boreal zone from Norway eastwards, occurring on passage at inland waters and gravel pits and occasionally in winter on freshwater streams.

VC 61 Seen in every month of the year at North Cave Wetlands except May, from 13th January to 28th December, and maximum counts of four in July, three in August and two in December. At TLNR monthly maxima included eight on 26th June, 22 on 19th August, eight on 5th September, and two on the nearby River Hull on two 24th December. At PHENR, the year's high was three on 24th July and 41 bird days were logged on 33 dates which is a decline in numbers for the second consecutive year. Other singles were noted at Paull Holme Strays on 22nd April and 22nd July, Brough Airfield on 25th July, Wheldrake Ings, Melbourne Pools and North Duffield Carrs (three birds) in October and Foston Beck 24th to 26th December. On the coast, one flew south at Spurn on 4th April and one was in the Triangle on 17th. Returning birds started to appear from July, with the first on 9th, with two on 10th September being the last of the year. Singles were reported at Flamborough on 3rd April, 23rd June, 30th July and 8th August. At Filey, singles were at the Dams on 18th April and East Lea on 27th April, then an early returning bird at the Tip Pond on 19th June. There were numerous records from the Dams from July to September, with a peak of four in August. Unusually, two were noted coming in off the sea on 13th August.

VC 62 In spring one was at Wykeham South Lake on 30th April. Return passage began with singles at Scalby Lodge Pond and Star Carr on 29th July with a series of records from both sites, peaking at eight at the latter site on 28th August. A single was also recorded at Cromer Pond and two at Scaling Dam. The last was at Star Carr on 15th November.

VC 63 Recorded fairly infrequently, usually in ones and twos – sometimes up to five – at sites with well-margined open water. There were few spring records with singles at Fairburn Ings RSPB on 4th and Pugneys CP on 10th April. The usual summer stragglers appeared in June with one at Thornton Moor Res on 3rd, Ringstone Edge Res on 5th and 20th, Wintersett on 25th, with three singles at Swillington Ings late in the month. Birds began appearing from 20th July at Swillington Ings and were recorded daily until 11th September with monthly maximum of seven in July, nine in August and three in September. At Fairburn Ings RSPB birds were noted from 13th July with four the maximum in July, six the highest count in August, with ten in September, two singles were seen in October and one on 11th December. Two adults and two juveniles were at Flosh Cononley on 29th July and singles were also noted on 30th July at Ringstone Edge Res and in August at Cold Edge Dams on 7th, Thornton Moor on 11th and Elland GP on 17th. Peak count was 22 at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB on 8th August.

VC 64 Reported from the Harrogate area during January to April and July to December. Single were at Sandbeds Flash from 23rd March to 4th April and Lindley Wood Res on 29th June. In July: at Snaygill SW on 4th, Thorlby on 17th and 19th and six at Staveley NR on 29th. In August, five were at Staveley NR on 7th. One was at Stocksbridge NR on 9th December.

VC 65 Single birds were at High Batts from January to April and again from September to the year's end. There were four spring records at Flask's/Lingham Lakes, all singles between 13th February and 29th May. Nosterfield NR had one or two birds on most dates between 1st July and 18th November, with a maximum of three on 3rd October.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola* A

Amber list: scarce passage migrant in spring and autumn

Like the previous species, breeds in the boreal zone, but does breed in northern Scotland and winters further south in the Tropics.

VC 61 One present at North Cave Wetlands from 26th to 30th April was first of the year, followed by one on 2nd and 3rd May with one again on 31st May until 1st June, three on 1st July with one on 23rd. Elsewhere, in May, two were at TLNR on 6th with one to 10th, one at Bank Island on 11th and 12th, and it or another from 15th to 17th, one at Filey on 13th, one on Swinemoor from 13th to 17th with two on 15th, one flew south at Spurn on 16th and one at Sammy's Point Easington on 21st. The first returning bird at Spurn flew south past the Narrows on 3rd July. In August, one was at Tophill on 2nd, one flew south at Spurn off the Point on 19th, and at North Cave, singles were noted on 24th August and 5th September. In September at Spurn, one was on Clubley's on 3rd, one at Sammy's Point on 10th and the last of the year flew west on 28th. Also in September, one was at Paull Holme Strays on 12th, Flamborough's singleton flew south on 13th and singles were recorded at Tophill on 9th to 14th, 17th and 18th.

VC 62 Just three records this year. The first was at Cromer Pond on 20th June, followed by one commuting between Scalby Lodge Pond and Cromer Pond 10th to 12th August. A further single was at Scalby Lodge Pond on 18th August.

VC 63 Records are mainly of one or two birds at wetland sites with a high count of six at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB on 12th May. One at Redlands Sand Quarry on 22nd May was followed by two seen briefly at Swillington Ings on 28th June. A further bird was seen here on 11th August being joined by a second on the 13th, with one still present on 14th. Two flew in from the south to Anglers CP, Wintersett on 14th August.

VC 64 Singles were at Farnham GP on 22nd July and 14th August.

VC 65 Recorded on fifteen dates at Nosterfield NR between 30th April and 15th August: these were mostly

single birds but two were present on 29th July, 3rd and 5th August with three on the 4th. Single birds were at Lingham Lake on 1st, 8th and 22nd May and again on 6th August. At Flask's Lake one was display flighting over the reedbed on 31st June, with another present on 31st July. There was a single record at Stapleton on 12th and 13th June.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos* A

Uncommon breeder in north and west; passage migrant elsewhere. BBS 5/166

Breeds on stony upland rivers and reservoirs in the county, migrating south to winter as far as southern Africa. Passage includes birds moving to and from breeding grounds in Scotland and Fennoscandia.

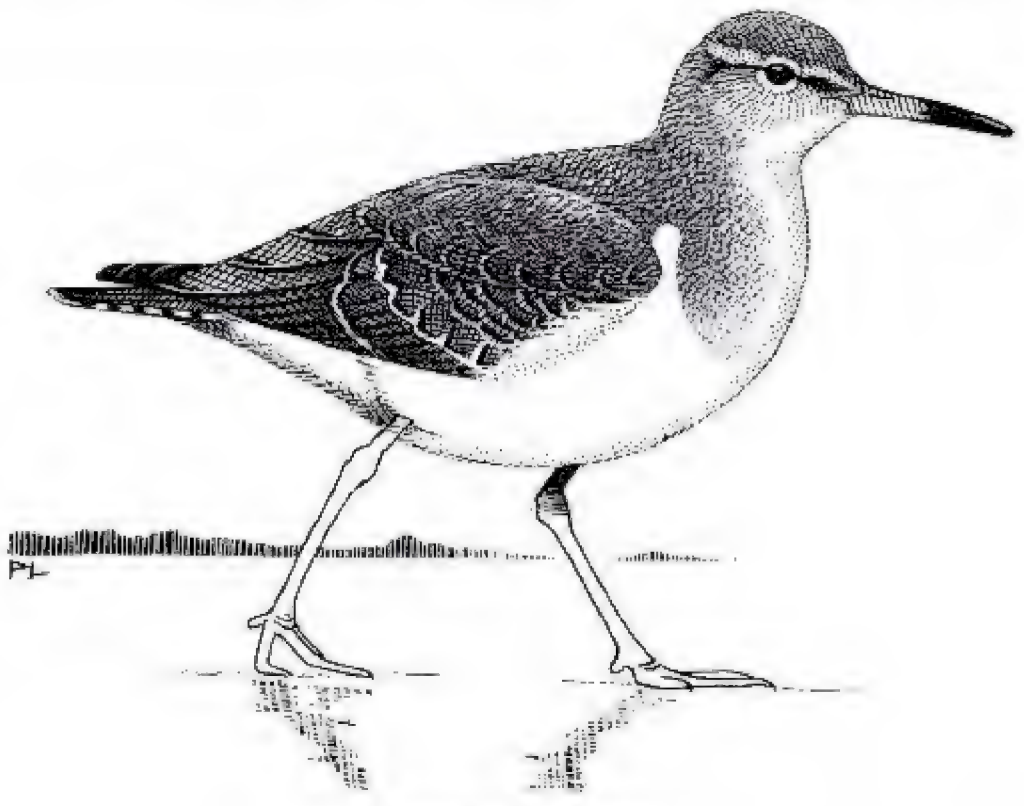
VC 61 Recorded at North Cave Wetlands between 31st March and 12th October with a maximum of six on 30th July. Recorded at Hornsea Mere from 17th April with a maximum of four, and the highest counts at Welton Waters and Tophill Low were five in July and August respectively. At Filey, the first was on 18th April at the Dams and after one more April record there was an almost continual presence during May, peaking at five on 15th, the autumn peak was seven on 10th September and there was a very late individual was on 16th October. There were just nine spring records at Spurn from 25th April, with low numbers also on the return passage noted from 8th July until 11th September, with a late record on 5th October.

VC 62 Recorded between 5th April and 27th September in small numbers, with a maximum of four at Scaling Dam on 30th April and four at Wykeham Lakes in May. No breeding records were received. Autumn passage was very light.

VC 63 north The first of the year was one at Pugneys CP on 8th April the main arrival being a week later, with one at Cononley on 16th and the largest number being eight at Thornton Moor Res on 30th. Five were at Fly Flatts, Halifax on 9th May. Five pairs were present in the Warland-Whiteholme area during the summer months and although no breeding was proven it was thought highly likely they did. Bred at Warley Moor Res and one chick was noted at Cold Edge Dams with two at Fly Flatts the only proven breeding records. Two to three birds were seen regularly between May and September at Swillington Ings and Fairburn Ings RSPB, with two at Cononley on 23rd September and singles at Pugneys CP and Swillington Ings on 14th October the last for the year. **VC 63 south** First recorded at Edderthorpe Flash on 5th April. Recorded between the 9th April and 21st October at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB with counts of six on 8th May and 11 on 4th August. The only spring record at Blacktoft Sands RSPB was a single on 30th April. In autumn it was regularly present from 25th July until 20th September with a peak of four on 9th September. Singles were at Beal Carrs on three dates between 26th April and 1st May and on 27th August and at Edderthorpe Flash on 5th April. Two were at Denaby Ings on 2nd July and up to three at Potteric Carr between 1st July and 1st October. A nest with four eggs at Leeshaw Res apparently was predated by Carrion Crow.

VC 64 The first was at Hay-a-Park on 10th April, followed by Ox Close, Linton Falls on 25th. Eight were at Grimwith on 2nd May, 11 on 15th June and 20 on 15th. Fifteen were at Gouthwaite Res on 7th July, with others reported from Ripon Racecourse on 9th September, Bellflask Quarry on 10th and Hay-a-Park. Bred at Kex Gill Quarry and Otley Wetland.

VC 65 The first was at Nosterfield NR on 2nd April, thereafter one to four birds were present until the last on 9th October. One or two birds were at Lingham Lake throughout the spring to autumn period, and Flask's Lake had four breeding pairs, with the last bird present on 12th November (SPW). Elsewhere pairs were around Angram Reservoir and birds were seen on suitable stretches of the River Ure from West Tanfield upwards.



Spotted Sandpiper

SPOTTED SANDPIPER *Actitis macularia* A 0,0,0,0,1

Vagrant; 11 previous records (9 birds)

Breeds in North America and winters from the USA to southern South America.
VC 61 One was found at Easington Lagoon on 23rd October (PC: BH: MJP *et al.*).

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres* A

Amber list: uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce inland
WeBS Status - Int. threshold 1000: GB threshold 500

Birds breeding in northeast Canada, Greenland and Fennoscandia winter on rocky or coarse sand coasts, and sections of estuary with fucoid covered cobbles from the North Sea south to West Africa, although they can roost in dockland areas. Following a long national decline, numbers appear to have stabilised at a relatively low level.

WeBS counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North Humber	529	27	46	122	54	23	126	108	80	15	25	69
South Tees	163	44	122	86	21	0	2	53	99	68	211	88

VC 61 An exceptional high tide roost in West Hull at Albert Dock held 480 birds on 15th January, otherwise most observations came from the outer Humber, with occasional records in the Hessle and Ferriby/Brough sector. Spring passage varied by a month between the two estuaries. The maximum this year at Filey Brigg was 38 on 22nd October, (note that 300 were recorded in 1993) although there were many counts in the twenties from late July to the end of the year. At Flamborough, 39 in January were winterers, with 128 passing on 17th September and 91 on 19th. Between Atwick and Barmston the peak count was 39 on 27th February. At Spurn, between 16th July and 23rd September, 116 flew south offshore. Inland records included one at Tophill Low on 4th January; ten at North Cave Wetlands: an adult in winter plumage on 28th February, one on 31st March, two summer plumaged birds on 13th May, two on 8th August, and four on the 17th September; singles at Wheldrake Ings on 2nd May, 5th September, singles at PHENR on 29th August and 4th September and a flock of eight that flew over Thorganby Ings on 7th September.
VC 62 Present along the coast in every month except June, scarce after mid May. The largest count came on 14th February with 180 around South Bay Scarborough and 40 at Scalby Lodge Pond.
VC 63 north Nine birds passed through Swillington Ings on various dates from 6th May to 5th June. Elsewhere one was at Pugneys CP on 30th April, two were at Fairburn Ings RSPB on 1st May and on at Thornton Moor Res on 2nd May. Autumn passage started with one at Swillington Ings on 10th August followed by three on 3rd September. September was a very good month with four at Blackmoorfoot Res on 4th, one on 11th, three at Whiteholme on 11th, while Fairburn Ings RSPB had four on 4th, one on 10th and seven on 11th and four were at Thornton Moor Res on 10th. The biggest total was at Swillington Ings where 21 passed through on 10th September including a party of 14. **VC 63 south** At Blacktoft Sands RSPB two were recorded on two spring dates between 20th April and eight seen on 18th May and there were five further records of one on 23rd July, two on 25th August, five on 11th September, one on 5th October and one on 13th December. Birds were seen on fifteen dates at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB, the first being on 5th February, one or two seen on a few dates in April, May, July, and September and five present on 22nd, 23rd and 27th May. Three were recorded on 28th August and the last of the year was one on 14th October. Southfield Res had thirteen records for the year. Potteric Carr's first record since 1995 was of five on 25th July and 12 flew over there on 11th September. Peak count at Thrybergh CP was six on 25th September.
VC 64 Singles were at Farnham GP on 26th April and Staveley NR on 27th August.
VC 65 Singles were at Lingham Lake from 2nd to 7th May, with six on 18th and two from 26th to 30th May. In autumn seven birds were present on the 10th, when one was also present at Nosterfield NR, with one at Lingham from 13th to 16th October.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus* A 3,2,2,2,1

Red list and UK BAP species: rare passage migrant, mainly in autumn

The Western Palaearctic population extends from northern Scotland eastwards through Scandinavia and northern Russia and migrates overland to winter in the Arabian Sea. It has declined as a British breeder and just a few are now reported annually, with the majority of records from the east coast in autumn.
VC 63 A juvenile was at Blacktoft Sands RSPB on the 23rd and 24th August (PSh *et al.*).

GREY PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicarius* A 6,20,17,11,25

Rare or scarce coastal passage migrant and winter visitor; rare inland

This species has a noticeably different distribution to the preceding one, breeding in North America east through Iceland, Spitzbergen and Novaya Zembla, but not in northern Eurasia. It is most likely to occur in our county after westerly or north-westerly gales, though rarely does more than one occur at same time.

VC 61 Two remained at Filey Brigg from 2004, last being seen on 31st January (CCT *et al.*). In February, singles flew north at Flamborough on 17th (PAL) and Filey Brigg on 26th. The next was not until 16th September when one flew north at Spurn (DH: AAH). Three flew north at Flamborough on 3rd October (AMA: IM: BR: RS) and in November, one flew north along the Humber at Spurn on 9th (AAH), one lingered off Filey Brigg from 12th to 18th (SE *et al.*), one flew south at Spurn on 13th (DH: MJP), two north at Spurn on 17th (AAH: SW) and one north at Flamborough also on 17th (DBY: SH). Finally, at Filey a first-winter was on the sea and latterly the Brigg on 16th December (CCT).
VC 62 Singles flew north past Long Nab, Burniston on 3rd October and one south there on 6th November (NWA). Also in November, one was in North Bay, Scarborough on 12th (JH) with probably the same bird also reported from Scalby Lodge Pond (MF), one was seen at South Gare on 13th (GM) and another there on 16th (CB: ECP), and three were in Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 23rd (MF).
VC 63 A bird flew around the Park Lake at Wintersett on the morning of 23rd October before eventually leaving to the north (PM). A winter-plumaged adult was at Astley Lake, Swillington Ings from mid morning until dusk on 2nd December but couldn't be relocated the following day (JSa).

POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus* A
Uncommon coastal passage migrant; more numerous in autumn; rare inland

Breeds in circumpolar sub-Arctic regions, migrating south, sometimes overland, to winter in the southern oceans.
VC 61 After the first at Flamborough on 10th July there were six further birds that month, with nine in August, 27 in September, 45 in October including 31 on 18th, and 32 in November. 35 bird/days were logged at Spurn between 8th August and 3rd December. 27 were recorded at Filey between 30th August and a relatively late single south on 16th December. Singles were seen off Atwick on 19th and 22nd July, at Bempton on 22nd July, two at Barmston on 21st August, eight past Barmston on 15th and one on 19th September, singles past Atwick on 16th September and 5th October, and one past Hornsea on 16th November. Inland, one flew east over the Humber at Skeffling on 6th November (WFC).
VC 62 After an adult flew north off Marine Drive Scarborough on 22nd July and two singles passed Cromer Point on 25th July. In August there was one north off Marine Drive on 10th, and one south at Long Nab on 13th. September produced three south at Long Nab on 9th, and one south the following day, when three flew south at both Cowbar and Kettleness. On 11th five were seen at South Gare. In October, one passed Robin Hoods Bay on 1st, singles were seen off Kettleness and Long Nab on 2nd and Long Nab on 13th, and then the last was one south off Marine Drive on 14th November.

ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus* A
Fairly common coastal passage migrant; more numerous in autumn; rare inland

Breeds in occasionally in northern Scotland and widely around the Arctic and sub-Arctic, migrating along the Yorkshire coast and wintering at sea usually in the southern hemisphere, but some linger further north. Numbers recorded off Yorkshire have declined in the last ten years.
VC 61 A good spring for this species at Spurn. One north on 6th April was the first of the year. It was followed by two out east on 26th. In May, one to four were recorded on 14 dates. Unusually 13 birds were logged on 10th, equalling the spring day-total. Seen almost daily from 6th July to the end of October, but the highest count was only 41 on 15th September. One to five seen on five dates in November, with 10 on 13th and the last bird flying north on 7th December. At Flamborough Head it was a poor spring in comparison, with five on 14th May the highest count. Autumn counts included 59 on 7th August, 160 on 10th September, 40 on 2nd October and 15 on 13th November with one on 3rd December the last. At Filey, 2005, with a grand total of 583 south, was a much better year than 2004, which was the worst ever for the species. Three south/one north on 14th May were the year's first and sole record for the month, before four records involving six birds north in June. Southbound passage began as usual in mid-July and continued until the end of October with monthly totals of July – 59; August – 236; September - 238 and October - 44. The peak day count was 74 on 15th September. There were five stragglers in November, before a particularly late individual north past the brig on 27th December.
VC 62 Just one spring record of one chasing gulls off Marine Drive Scarborough on 14th May. Return movement began with two past Long Nab on 4th July, then regular sightings from late July to mid October. The largest count was of 40 past Long Nab on 9th September. In November sightings included two past Cowbar on 13th and singles off Marine Drive on 13th and 16th, and two south on 17th.
VC 63 One flew north-west over South Anston 10th October.

LONG-TAILED SKUA *Stercorarius longicaudus* A 117,88,56,55,103
Scarce coastal migrant mainly in autumn; rare inland

This circumpolar species is the scarcest of the skuas occurring in the county. Increased observer awareness led to more records in the 1990's, but recent years have been relatively poor. Numbers depend on the Lemming cycle and appropriate weather conditions.
VC 61 The first was an adult at Flamborough on 10th July, with an immature on 23rd. In August, adults were recorded on 6th, 8th, 11th and 24th with the first juvenile on 31st. In September, one on 3rd, three on

9th, four on 10th, and singles on 16th, 17th and 19th, and two on both 24th and 25th. In October, ten on 13th, two on 14th and seven on 18th, all juveniles. An adult and juvenile were in the bay off Atwick on the evening of 4th August. An adult south on 6th August was the first of 21 at Filey. The good spell in September brought two juveniles south on 9th, an impressive eight south on 10th and a juvenile around the Brigg on 11th September. Three were logged south on 15th and two flew north/south on 17th finishing a good spell for the species. October was blank before an unusual series of sightings of juveniles in November. Two went south on 13th, one south on 18th, before a very late juvenile south on 26th November. The first at Spurn was not until 9th September where 16 bird/days were logged, all in September. Three singles flew south past the sea-watching hut on 9th and another three passed south on 10th. Adults flew north on 13th and 14th, two south on 15th, five (a three and two singles) south on 16th and one flew north on 17th. Four were seen off Mappleton on 16th September.
VC 62 The first was an adult drifting south past Marine Drive Scarborough on 10th August. In September, a juvenile passed Long Nab, Burniston on 1st, two passed Marine Drive on 9th, singles at both Staithes and Cowbar on 10th and 11th, one south at Marine Drive Scarborough on 16th and six south past Long Nab also on 16th. The next was on 5th November, when a juvenile flew south at Long Nab, one was on the rocks at Scalby Mills on 12th and 14th and again on the unusually late date of 13th December.

GREAT SKUA *Catharacta skua* A
Amber list: fairly common to uncommon coastal passage migrant; rare inland

Breeds in Scotland, Iceland, the Faeroes and recently Scandinavia, migrating usually offshore to the seas off southern Europe.
VC 61 An unseasonable bird flew south at Spurn on 19th January. Nine birds were seen between 20th April and 12th June. Recorded on eight days in July, usually as singles although five were seen on 23rd. Single figures seen almost daily from August to the end of October, the only double-figure counts were: 14 on 29th September, 41 on 1st, 36 on 2nd, 12 on 4th, and 18 on 14th October. November produced four records to 16th, with eight on 13th. The last record involved two on 6th December. One was seen off Flamborough Head in April on 9th, with low numbers in May and June, and monthly maxima of 31 on 23rd July, 36 on 7th August, 81 on 10th September, 91 on 14th October and small numbers again in November up to 26th. There were no records at Filey until May, when three flew north on 11th, then four south and two north on 14th. There were singles on 2nd, 12th and 25th June and a light passage south during July, with a total of 21 during the month, and August was similar, with 24 logged south and 23 north. Genuine passage south was evident in September, when 168 were logged, with a peak day count of 75 on 9th and in October when 67 were recorded. Six were noted in November, including the last of the year on 26th, which brought the total south for the year to 286.
VC 62 The first was one sat on the sea off Long Nab on 16th May, with a further single there on 12th June. One was off Cowbar on 25th June. In July 1-3 were occasionally noted from 7th, up to six in August, then more frequent passage in September and October. Sixty-two flew south at Cowbar on 10th September, when 16 passed Long Nab, with 15 south there on 13th October. The last were three south at Cowbar on 13th November.
VC 63 One flew over Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 2nd January and one at Damflask Res 16th October.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus* A
Amber list: scarce visitor in all seasons; has attempted to breed

Breeding mainly in southeast and southern Europe, there has been an expansion northwest in recent years and numbers recorded in the county have increased. In recent years, breeding attempts have been recorded at Stocks Res, in VC 64 though, since the 1974 Admin. boundary changes, in Lancashire, and in the Lower Derwent Valley. In 1998 a pair plus a hybrid pair [Black-headed x Med Gull] bred at Stocks Res, but only the mixed pair reared any young that year. This situation continued until 2002 when "pure" pairs reared one and two young respectively [*The Naturalist, Vol 130 p 44*]. In 2003, two pairs were present in the Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus* colony during March but it appears that only one pair actually nested, fledging one young. In 2004 the first adult returned on 5th March and up to three adults were seen during April, including a pair which had produced at least one chick by 22nd May. Another two pairs arrived during May and settled to breed but with unknown success. Two juveniles were seen on 27th June, one of which was last seen on 12th July. In the Lower Derwent Valley, a hybrid pair may have attempted breeding in 1993 and 1994, and a pure pair were seen displaying and copulating in 1999, and were thought to have a nest nearby, but deserted the site when water levels fell [*CS Ralston: 2005*].
VC 61 More than 140 reports were received, including 60 from Spurn including seven on 21st September, 18 from BPNR between June and September and 24 at Flamborough, where 11 were noted in September. Winter records included birds in January at Holmpton and Hornsea Mere, and in February at Spurn, Withernsea, Howden and North Duffield Carrs. Birds were also seen during the year at Barmston, Fraisthorpe, Holme-on-Spalding Moor, Kilnsea, North Cave Wetlands, Routh and a rare record of one in East Hull on 11th July. A minimum of five were reported at Filey between April and November. Present at Paull Holme Strays on many days June to September, with ten (nine adults) roosting there on 13th July. In the second winter period, singles were reported from Tophill Low and Hornsea Mere. Adults tend to predominate, with slightly more first-year than second-year birds.

VC 62 At least seven individuals were seen around South Bay Scarborough in the first two months of the year, four adults, two second-winter, and one first winter bird. The Serbian ringed bird (in second-winter plumage) was present up to 25th March, the last bird of spring, and again from 23rd July to the year end (in near adult plumage). An adult was at Skinningrove on 8th and a first winter at Saltburn on 18th January, with second-summers at Scaling Dam in April and June and at Saltburn on 22nd July. The first returning bird further south was an adult at Scalby Mills on 5th July, and a further nine individuals were reported along the coast to the end of August. A juvenile was at Scaling Dam on 26th August, an adult at Saltburn on 4th September, and first-winters at South Gare on 12th and 13th October and Coatham Marsh on 23rd October. By November three adults were regularly seen around South Bay, Scarborough. A presumed adult hybrid Mediterranean X Black-headed Gull was seen flying south past Long Nab on 25th September. It had black tips to the upper primaries and dark bases to the under primaries plus a bright orange/red bill (NWA).
VC 63 north Adults were noted at Blackmoorfoot Res from 10th to 27th January, a different bird 18th to 20th February, and at Pugneys CP on 23rd January, 7th February, 4th and 15th March and 7th December. The regular adult returned to Fairburn Ings RSPB on 26th February remaining until 5th August, with three on 11th June and two on 12th. At Swillington Ings a second-winter was present from 10th to 12th March, and adults flew over on 5th, 8th and 16th April, 20th June and 6th July. An adult roosted at Wintersett Res on 19th and 21st January and in October a first-winter was noted on 7th and an adult on 17th, with a second first-winter seen from 18th to 20th being joined by a second bird on 20th. A first-winter roosted on 10th December and an adult on 27th. In August, a juvenile was at Thornton Moor Res on 19th and an adult on 24th. What was considered the same bird was present on three dates to 24th September. One was seen at Fairburn Ings RSPB from 23rd to 25th November. **VC 63 south** Recorded on eleven dates at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB involving perhaps three different birds. The first was on 1st on the 4th of February. In May a first-summer recorded within the Black-headed Gull colony in early June. A first-winter on 8th December left northwest being the last recorded of the year. Southfield Res had two first-winter birds on 25th January, an adult on 6th February and a first-winter on 22nd with, in March, a first-winter on 4th and an adult on 22nd. In August a juvenile and two second-years, one of which lingered to 16th September, and a first-year on 28th October. An adult was on Doncaster Racecourse on 25th February with singles in the Lakeside roost on 6th November and 14th December. Singles were at Potteric Carr on 21st August, Wentworth Park on 13th November and Broomhead Res on three dates in December, the last being on 28th. Single, differently-aged, birds roosted at Broomhead Res between 10th and 28th December.
VC 64 The first bird arrived back at Stocks Res roosted on 8 March. Adults with colour rings were observed on 20th and 25th March. From 15th April, four were present and by 16th May two separate birds were sitting at nest sites. Successful breeding could not be confirmed this year due to the luxuriant growth of vegetation on the island; the last was seen on 7 July. One was at Riverside, Otley on 15th August. A first-winter bird was at Knotford Nook on 3rd December.
VC 65 Birds were present at Nosterfield NR and Lingham Lake between 15th March and 23rd May. These records involved at least five different birds, four adults and a first-summer, with considerable interchange between the two sites, and a maximum of four (two pairs) on 19th March. A pair displayed, held territory and built a nest on an island in the Main Lake at Nosterfield NR in late March/early April, but failed to lay eggs (RTP: SPW *et al.*).

LAUGHING GULL *Larus atricilla* A 0,0,1,0,2

Vagrant; 10 previous records (9 birds)

Breeds on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of the USA, wintering to South America. Although regularly reported in Britain, it is rare in the county, the last being seen on the mid-Tees boundary from Middlesbrough on 2003.
VC 62 A first-summer bird was found at Scalby Lodge Pond at 07.35 hrs on 22nd July as it was sleeping in a flock of Black-headed Gulls. It left towards the sea at 08.00 hrs not to be seen again (NWA). A new species for the Scarborough district.
VC 63/4 Years of dedicated gull watching paid dividends when a second-winter was discovered roosting at Anglers Country Park Wintersett on 6th October and seen intermittently there until 6th November (PS *et al.*). It was noted at Nostell Priory on 8th and 10th October, Prince of Wales Colliery Pontefract on various dates between 11th and 16th October (CCR), and feeding in fields in the Featherstone Ackworth Moor Top area intermittently from 16th October to 13th November. An account is in *Yorkshire Birding 14:4 pp 111-114*

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus* A

Uncommon to fairly common passage migrant; scarce inland

Breeds across Eurasia with birds dispersing in late July, entering the North Sea via the Baltic, and generally wintering south of England. Occasionally seen in large numbers in the county, as in 2003 and 2004.
VC 61 The first at Filey was on 13th January when one went north and two more in January on 16th and 18th. Singles appeared at the Dams on 29th May and 20th June. Small numbers were reported in July, August and September, when 23 went south, including 12 on 24th. October was easily the most productive month, with 921 south and 122 north logged, with a maximum of 305 south on 28th. There were still plenty to be seen in November, including 160 in the bay on 5th and 133 south between 6th and 13th and the last of the year was a single south on 3rd December. There were five winter records in January and February at Flamborough, where the main passage was noted from 16th July to 12th November, with one on 11th December. Peak

passage counts included 808 on 30th August, 1000 on 24th September, 633 on 13th October and 700 on 5th November. A similar pattern was noted at Spurn where recorded on seven dates in January in small groups in single figures, the highest count being 10 on 19th and 23rd. Two on 20th March were the next to be seen. April produced just three records and just a few in May, with a maximum of seven on 10th. One to two were recorded on four dates in June, becoming more regular in July. In August seen in only single figures apart from 21 on 3rd. Seen almost daily to mid-November, in lesser numbers than the last few years, but still with some noteworthy counts: 331 on 30th September, 348 on 2nd, 693 on 5th, and 528 on 14th October. December produced one on 6th and two on 30th. Elsewhere on the coast in August, 400 flew north at East Newton on 8th and 55 flew south at Atwick on 30th.

Inland, birds were seen regularly at Hornsea Mere from May (max. five on 20th) to 5th November, with peak counts of 50 on 11th August and 190 on 5th September, and at Tophill Low, where a remarkable 350-400, mostly adults, roosted on the evening of 9th July. Birds were also reported from Paull Holme Strays between June and August, with a peak of eight in July, and from North Cave Wetlands where an adult was regularly seen in February and March, and there were six other records from there between May and October. Elsewhere, one was at Wheldrake on 29th April, singles at Welton Waters in February, May and June and up to eight in July, two at Watton NR in August and one at Wheldrake again on 21st November.

VC 62 As usual very scarce prior to July. An adult was at Scalby Mills on 9th January, the next were two adults south off Marine Drive on 26th April. Returning birds commenced on 10th July when 41 passed north off Long Nab. Recorded frequently to mid November mostly less than 20 but 39 passed Long Nab on 24th September, 38 off Scalby Ness on 19th October, 148 off Long Nab on 30th October, and 30 there on 6th November. After an adult off Long Nab on 28th November, a first-winter was in North Bay on Boxing Day.

VC 63 north April was the main month for passage with one at Elland GP on 5th the first for the year. The Wintersett area recorded ten birds during the month with a maximum of three on 12th. Fourteen passed over Fairburn Ings RSPB during the month with nine east on 24th, with singles at Skelton Lake on 22nd and Swillington Ings on 24th. Further singles were noted at Fairburn Ings RSPB on 30th July and 1st August, Swillington Ings on 10th September and Blackmoorfoot Res on 17th October. A first-year bird was on Leeshaw Res on 7th November. **VC 63 south** The first was at Ingbirchworth Res on 25th March. At Blacktoft Sands spring records were one from 11th to 14th April, six on 30th May, three on 3rd June and three on 11th June. At Old Moor Wetlands RSPB 12 were recorded on the morning of the 22nd April followed by two second-summer birds on the 29th, and in May two on the 24th. Southfield Res had 24 records, with a maximum of eight birds on 22nd April. Six at Doncaster Lakeside on 13th April was the next highest count. Singles were at Rother Valley CP in February, April and November with two there 23rd October.

VC 64 One was at Hay-a-Park on 10th January with two adults at Farnham GP on 22nd, one on 25th and an immature on 15th May. An immature bird was at Malham Tarn on 7th September.

VC 65 Three were at Nosterfield NR on 26th April, with immatures on 15th May which flew to nearby Lingham Lake. In autumn a juvenile was at Nosterfield NR on 12th September and an adult on 3rd October. Lingham Lake had four juveniles on 25th September and one on 2nd October.

SABINE'S GULL *Larus sabini* A 20,15,16,22,11

Scarce autumn coastal migrant, very rare in winter

This species breeds from Greenland east to eastern Siberia and the western populations winter in the Atlantic. It typically occurs from late August to October, with numbers swelled by severe gales. Adults tend to move before juveniles. Numbers have been quite consistent in recent years.

VC 61 The first flew north at Filey Brigg on 9th August (SC: JHo: JS), with one south there on 12th (JH) and an adult the same day at Flamborough (PAL). Another adult was seen at Flamborough on 21st (AMA: PAL: IM) and a juvenile there on 24th (PAL). Single juveniles flew south at Spurn on 9th September (AR *et al.*) and east at the Narrows on 23rd, then over the Humber next day towards Grimsby (MGN: AR *et al.*). In October, juveniles were seen at Flamborough Head on 2nd (AMA: IM: BR: RS) and 18th (AMA).

VC 62 A juvenile passed Kettleness Point (AF) and Staithes on 10th September (GM) and another juvenile flew south past Long Nab on 13th October (NWA).

VC 63 An adult in full summer plumage discovered feeding along the canal at Knottingley on 2nd July, remained in the area until 8th July (MW *et al.*). It was also located roosting at Fairburn Ings RSPB in the evenings of 5th to 7th July (JBu: JG *et al.*).

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus* A

Amber list: common breeder and abundant in winter. BBS 46/166

A widespread and successful species, breeding from east Canada east through Britain and Europe to northeast China. As many as 1.9 million are thought to winter in Britain, with many immigrants from northern Europe and perhaps western Russia reaching Yorkshire.

VC 61 Colonies of about 60 pairs bred at North Cave Wetlands and 35 pairs at Brough Airfield Marsh. 4000 flew east there on 23rd July. Tophill Low's peak counts were 15000 on 6th to 8th September and 9000 in October. 2000 were at Paull Holme Strays on 1st September. At Filey the only significant counts were all in October – 130 on the Brigg on 2nd, 304 south in one hour on 8th and 1048 south in two hours on 12th. High counts at Flamborough included 705 on 13th February, 530 on 14th March, 456 on 2nd September, 746 on 2nd October, 650 on 6th November and 155 on 11th December. At Spurn, small numbers were present on the

Humber throughout the year. Numbers built up in the late summer and early autumn and counts of up to 500 could be seen. Passage in the first half of the year saw 2371 fly south and 295 go out east, giving a maximum count of 506 south on 4th April. In the second half of the year, 3105 flew south and 283 came in off the sea, with high counts of 304 on 13th September, 632 on 1st November, 469 on 5th, and 446 on 9th.

VC 62 A common winter visitor and passage migrant. The peak count was 1200 at the regular Wykeham Lakes roost on 17th December, with 791 on the south Tees, in November.

VC 63 Bred at Swillington Ings where at least 600 pairs bred at three locations, Fairburn Ings RSPB with 382 young counted in June and at Pugneys CP where *c.*80 pairs bred, with a minimum of 70 young noted. Nineteen pairs attempted breeding at Blacktoft Sands RSPB although no young fledged but at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB at least 260 nests were counted during May with an estimated 210 young hatched. Thirty fledged young at Potteric Carr on 22nd June. Up to 600 breeding birds were on Thorne Moors NNR with chicks seen from 20th May. Post-breeding flocks of up to 870 were in the Cullingworth area on many dates in July. High counts of roosting birds were 1000 at Cononley in January and 300 in October; 1800 at Carleton and 3500 at Thornton Moor Res in January, 3400 in February, 2500 in October and 4500 in December and 6000 at Pugneys CP in February and December. At Wintersett Res, 5000 were counted on 9th January and from late October to the year end with 7000 on 18th October. Southfield Res had roost counts of 10000+ on 6th February, 4000+ on 23rd March, 6000+ on 8th August and 10000+ on 18th August. On the morning of 14th September 7500+ were counted and 15000 on 18th October. A colour-ringed adult found dead at Swillington Ings on 4th August had been ringed as a nestling at Thorne Moors on 15th June 2002.

VC 64 Seen throughout the area in parties of up to 100, higher counts being: 6500 at Farnham GP in January with 3000 at Swinsty Res on 5th. In February, 2000 at Staveley NR and 5000 at Swinsty Res on 7th. In October, 1000 were at Staveley NR and 2000 at Farnham GP in November with 1500 there in December. Bred: Dallowgill Moor with three large colonies with many eggs taken. Farnham GP had 120 pairs in April. A bird at Farnham GP on 17th April and 29th May with a plastic ring JCV had been ringed as an adult female in Copenhagen in March 2001.

VC 65 This is a common and widespread bird in the VC. Peak counts at Lingham Lake, evening roosts in winter are shown below.

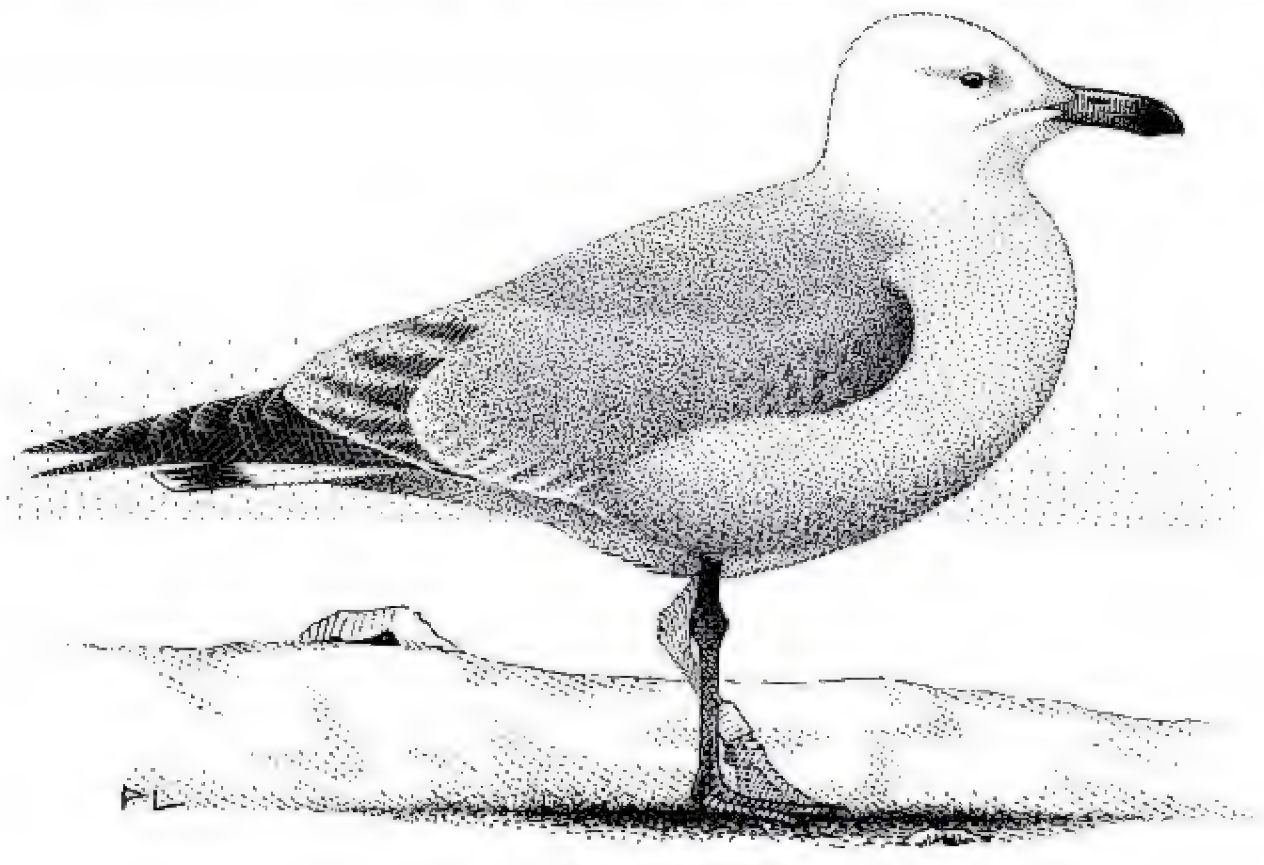
Peak counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Lingham Lake	10000	18000	9000	1454	264	160	150	400	400	5000	8000	13000

Elsewhere, the highest count was 1810 at Nosterfield NR in January. The colony at Nosterfield NR had 93 nests with at least 100 young on 29th May and nearby Lingham Lake had 117 nests. At a colony in the Catterick area a total of 221 *pulli* were ringed.

AUDOUIN'S GULL *Larus audouinii* **A** 0,0,0,0,1

Vagrant; no previous records

Breeds in the Mediterranean from Spain and Morocco east to Turkey and winters on the Atlantic coast of



Audouin's Gull

North and West Africa. There has been only one previous British record, in 2003.
VC 61 A second-summer bird was found at Beacon Lagoons, Kilnsea, on 1st June (LJD *et al.*). It was seen in the afternoon, but flew off up the Humber, never to be seen again. A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding 14:2 pp 45-47.*

COMMON GULL *Larus canus* A

Amber list: common to abundant passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 5/166

Breeds in Scotland, and only common in Yorkshire outside the breeding season when continental migrants from Scandinavia and the Baltic states arrive from September through to December to winter. European breeding populations have been declining.
VC 61 Winter counts at Tophill Low were 75% down on the 10 year average, with peaks of 10200 on 8th November, 6340 in December and 200 in January. 2900 were counted at Hornsea Mere in February, and 300 were distributed around the three Hull parks in January. At Filey, the first juvenile was reported from the Dams on the very early date of 28th June. Passage was noted in October when 70 flew south in one hour on 8th and 255 south in two hours on 12th, followed by a further 90 south on 29th. The December bay roost held more than normal this year, with a count of 450 on 16th. At Flamborough, 1000 were noted on 2nd January and 875 on 3rd, with 770 on 5th March. After that, numbers gradually declined to the 50's in July and August before rising again with 899 on 2nd October and 834 on 11th December. At Spurn, the monthly maximum counts were: J–60, F–260, M–500, A–35, M–20, J–83, J–75, A–60, S–200, O–43, N–87, D–180. Very little significant passage was noted. The highest counts of birds moving south were 200 on 5th May and 127 on 5th November. 400 flew east down the Humber at Welton on 23rd July.
VC 62 Present throughout the year, mainly as a winter visitor, large numbers feeding in The Carrs. Roosts occur along the coast and at Wykeham Lakes where an estimated 5000 were present on 4th October. Scaling Dam recorded 760 in August, while 1160 was the peak count on the south Tees, in November.
VC 63 A very common winter visitor and passage migrant to the area with small numbers seen at some locations during the summer months. Recorded in every month except April and May in the Halifax area with 202 at Northowram on 17th March and 120 and 145 at Queensbury on 24th October and 4th November the highest counts. Two hundred roosted at Pugneys CP during both winter periods. Fairburn Ings RSPB had small numbers throughout the year with 70 the peak count in January and November, with the biggest numbers at Wintersett with 1400 on 22nd January and 19th February, and c.2000 on 28th December. At Cullingworth there were 1200 on 15th February, and 1200 also at Thornton Moor on 15th February, 3500 in November with a maximum of 2500 in December. At Southfield Res roost counts were 900+ on 6th February, 1600+ on 4th March dropping to 1150+ on 11th. In November there were 1200+ on 18th. The highest count of the year at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB was 240 on the 29th of December.
VC 64 Counts included: January – 3000 at Swinsty Res on 5th, 2260 at Grimwith Res on 14th, 285 at Beckwithshaw on 21st; February – 200 at Gouthwaite Res on 12th, 5000 at Swinsty Res on 14th; March - 600 at Gouthwaite Res on 12th and 800 at Norwood Bottom and 400 at Haverah Park on 18th. In October, 2200 were at Grimwith Res on 30th.
VC 65 Present in low numbers across the VC at suitable sites. Present throughout the year at Nosterfield NR with a maxima of 200 on 20th January. In the winter gull roost at Lingham Lake the monthly maxima were as follows: Jan: 800, Feb: 300, March: 350, Oct: 350, Nov:1000, Dec: 600.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* A

Amber list: scarce breeding summer visitor; fairly common passage migrant/increasing winter visitor. BBS 26/166

The form *graellsii* occasionally breeds in Yorkshire at inland sites and on coastal rooftops in Scarborough, Filey and Bridlington. This race also breeds in Western Europe, Greenland, Iceland and the Faeroes as well as northern Britain, and migrates through the county to winter to the south, usually returning in March. The race *intermedius* breeds in Denmark, southern Norway and Sweden and occurs in small numbers on passage.
VC 61 Seen in all months, with some large summer roosts of non-breeding birds that feed on the Humber reported from Sunk Island to Easington of 100-250 birds, and 200 were also seen in July near Market Weighton. Adult birds also summered in West Hull and may have bred. The first was a single at Spurn on 1st January, followed by another there on 15th and two on 17th. Also at Spurn, two were seen on 9th February, then no records until March, but recorded almost daily from April to mid-November, when small numbers were regularly seen on the Humber, and the last was a single on 21st December. The maximum count was 36 on 21st July. Passage in the spring included high counts of 37 north on 11th May and 49 south on 29th. Birds of the British form *graellsii* were recorded at Flamborough from 5th February through to December, with low numbers each month, and peak passage counts of 24 in May and 36 in September. Two *intermedius* were seen at Flamborough on 26th March and a massive 52 on 30th March with only about 50 birds noted subsequently, with the last on 10th November. Most of 23 on the beach at Filey on 19th May showed characteristics of the race *intermedius*. 140 passed Welton Waters on 15th July.
VC 62 At least four pairs were resident in Scarborough although no successes were reported. It first bred on Scarborough rooftops in 2001, when three pairs were noted. Seen from January to 15th November, the Wykeham gull roost held varying numbers from August to November peaking at 820 on 21st, with a peak count of 33 *intermedius* on 25th.

VC 63 Abundant passage visitor and non-breeding summer visitor, with occasional singles noted during the winter months. One to two were noted at Wintersett Res during January and February with numbers building up during July with 169 noted on 31st. They reached a peak on 9th October with 502 roosting on 9th decreasing to 130 on 1st November. At Fairburn Ings RSPB, birds were recorded in every month except January with 200 flying east on 14th June and 170 roosting in September the highest totals. At Swillington Ings 250 were roosting in March and September. At Thornton Moor Res - 2000 were recorded between May and August compared to 3000 in 2004 and at Cullingworth -130 in May, 170 in June, 240 in July and 335 in August. The autumn roost at Southfield Res has declined, with a maximum count of 175 on 8th August, whilst at Beal Carrs 103 alighted while c.50 passed overhead on 24th August. Old Moor Wetlands RSPB had 186 on the 22nd September. Birds showing characteristics of *intermedius* were present at Cullingworth, while counts of *intermedius* at Thornton Moor Res between 5th June and 23rd August totalled 24, with five present on 20th July and 19th August.
VC 64 In the early part of the year 39 were at Swinsty Res on 23rd January and up to 10 at Gouthwaite Res in February and March. Counts later in the year included: at Snaygill SW, 309 on 31st July; at Staveley NR, 100 over on 27th October and reported at Grimwith Res on 31st December. There was no definite proof of breeding but a bird in full juvenile plumage accompanied four adults at Kex Gill Quarry in late July. Ringed adults seen at Redcar Tarn and Cullingworth (VC 63) were from the Tarnbrook Fell (Bowland) colony.
VC 65 There were scattered records from high ground of this primarily summer visitor but no evidence of proven breeding. On low ground, a pair fledged a single chick at Lingham Lake. The bulk of records came from the Nosterfield NR/Lingham and Flask's Lakes. At Nosterfield NR, one to four birds were seen in the winter months, then 30+ from May, with a maximum of 200 on 15th August. Lingham/Flask's peak counts were 400 in July, 3500 in September, 2300 in October and 1000 in November. A large proportion in the autumn roosts, often in excess of 60 %, involved birds of the race *intermedius*.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus michahellis* A 107,115,122,110,85

Uncommon summer visitor and migrant

Breeds in southern Europe. Numbers reported from the county seem to have stabilised in recent years now that observers are familiar with its identification, but more are being reported from the north of the county. All records relate to birds in adult plumage unless otherwise stated.
VC 61 An adult was photographed distantly at Hornsea Mere on 5th April and second-years were seen in May at Spurn on 10th and North Cave Wetlands on 14th. Four were recorded at Spurn in June: a first-summer and two second-summers on 12th and the returning adult from 25th that remained to 13th November. A second-summer was at North Cave Wetlands on 16th June, and 23rd to 29th July. Also in July, up to four birds were seen at Sammy's Point, a third-summer was at TLNR and three at Hessle, all on 24th and third-summers were at Flamborough and Welton Waters on 29th. In August a first-summer flew south at Flamborough on 18th and four adults were at Tophill on 29th. An adult was at North Cave Wetlands on 29th October, 2nd and 3rd November.
VC 62 Seven birds were reported. The first was a first-summer bird at Scalby Mills on 4th April followed by an adult there 16th to 18th June. An adult was at South Gare on the latter date. One was in the Wykeham gull roost on 24th August and an adult and a first-winter bird at Rillington pig fields on 6th September. Another adult was at Scalby Mills on 19th September and lastly a third-winter type bird at the Wykeham gull roost on 21st September.
VC 63 At Swillington Ings a near adult was at Astley Lake on 29th April with further sightings on 2nd, 6th, 7th and 10th August, 3rd and 30th September and 12th October. A first-summer was at Cullingworth on 25th June and an adult on 25th July. At Ringstone Edge Res singles were seen on seven dates between 15th and 31st July with one observer suggesting three different birds were involved. One roosted at Wintersett Res on 13th August with one to three seen regularly to late December with a maximum of four on 9th October. Non-adults were also found roosting on 28th August, 17th, 18th and 23rd October, 17th and 18th to 23rd December. One was at Fairburn Ings RSPB on 26th September. An adult at Thornton Moor Res on 29th remained until 7th August and one on 16th was presumed the same as on 21st and 29th with a second-winter on 7th October. There were several records from the south and east of the VC between 1st January and 5th November comprising of a mixture of adults and immature birds but never more than one or two in number except at Southfield Res where five in the roost on 1st August and three adults in the roost on 11th September.
VC 64 In October, one was at Grimwith Res on 2nd, and a fourth-year at Gouthwaite Res on 9th.
VC 65 Singles, all adults, were at Nosterfield NR on 23rd March and 8th May, and on seven occasions between 14th July and 27th November. Lingham Lake had an adult on 21st May and a second-summer on 24th September, and Flask's Lake had single adults on 6th, 13th and 21st August and 24th September.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus* A

Amber list: fairly common resident breeder; common passage migrant and winter visitor
BBS 34/166

The race *argenteus* breeds in Britain and Ireland, including along the Yorkshire coast from where it disperses mostly locally. Distribution in BBS squares represents mostly dispersed non-breeders. The most recent information from Bempton, 709 present in 2000, was 26% below 1987 figures. The nominate form *argentatus* breeding in northern Europe visits mostly from September to February.

VC 61 This continues to be a common and successful species on town centre roofs in Filey and Bridlington and on cliffs from Bridlington north. 570, mainly first winter birds, were in Filey Bay on 25th March, and there were a few double figure counts from the Dams, e.g. 30 on 19th April and 40 on 19th July. Finally 800 roosted in the bay on 16th December. Commonly breeds at Bempton Cliffs. The breeding population at Flamborough Head is thought to be under-reported, but 400 were noted in March and 700 in September. At Spurn, a pair successfully bred on the mooring mast near the pilot's jetty. Small numbers also bred on factory rooftops in Hull. Northern birds of the form *argentatus* were recorded in both winter periods at Flamborough, with counts of 35 on 1st January, 60 on 29th October and 42 on 3rd December.
VC 62 A common breeding bird along the coast and on many buildings in Whitby and Scarborough. 320 pairs bred between Cowbar and Saltburn. Seamer Tip held 3500 on 15th January, with 1015 on south Tees in February.
VC 63 Abundant winter visitor with small numbers recorded at some sites during the summer months. Up to 1000 passed over Swillington Ings eastwards to roost elsewhere on several dates in both winter periods. Numbers were well down at Pugneys CP with typically only 20 roosting during the winter months. Wintersett Res noted 650 roosting on 3rd January and 600 on 27th December, while at Fairburn Ings RSPB 850 were noted in January, 190 in November and 300 in December with an average of about 20 from March to September. 34 were at Denholme on 9th January.
VC 64 Up to 200 were at the Farnham GP roost in the winter months, 44 at Skibden landfill site, Skipton on 23rd and small numbers between 23 and 40 noted on four occasions.
VC 65 Present at most of the larger water bodies in winter, the only monthly three-figure counts at Lingham Lake were 393 in January and 1200 in February and 300 in November, and at Nosterfield NR peak counts were 1000 in January, 542 in February, 340 in November and 407 in December.

CASPIAN GULL *Larus argentatus cachinnans* 2,2,2,6,2

Vagrant: 10 previous records

Caspian Gull breeds in the Caspian and Black Sea areas, but has recently expanded its breeding range to Poland. It is now regularly reported from south-east England, but in much smaller numbers than *michahellis*.
VC 63 A near-adult at Shirecliffe Tip on 21st January was also seen at Meadowhall on 26th, probably remaining in the area until February. It or another was in the roost at Broomhead Res on 10th February with another on 11th and 12th December PWr *et al.*).

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides* A 79,113,53,54,49

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

A winter visitor from Greenland. All records refer to first-year birds unless otherwise stated.
VC 61 One was at Flamborough Head on 6th February, one flew north at Filey on 26th February, an adult was seen along the peninsular at Spurn daily from 5th to 8th March, one flew over Filey CP on 10th April and a first-summer was at Filey Tip on 23rd April. In December, one was in Filey bay on 16th and an adult roosted at Wheldrake Ings on 17th December.
VC 62 One was seen at Skinningrove between 3rd and 20th January, with another in York on 21st. An adult was seen at Rufforth on 24th January and also near Askham Bryan on that date, and was again seen at Rufforth on 28th January and 18th, 19th and 22nd February. On 28th January it was accompanied by a first-winter near Harewood Whin Tip, and this bird was also seen on 7th February. One was at Seamer Tip on 30th January and it or another in Scarborough Harbour on 13th, 14th and 24th February and at Scalby Mills on 25th and 27th. One flew south along the cliff tops at Jackson's Bay on 21st March, one was in Scarborough Harbour on 28th March, and a late bird was at South Gare on 7th May.
VC 63 In the first half of the year at least four different birds were seen at Swillington Ings, with birds seen on 9th January, 6th and 19th February. In March an adult was seen regularly from 3rd to 25th, and a first-summer on 26th, 28th and 31st, and the same or another bird on 8th and 9th April. A second-winter roosted at Blackmoorfoot Res from 10th to 12th February, and single birds were located at Fairburn Ings RSPB on 19th January and 6th February. There were six records at Southfield Res between 25th January and 16th March with an adult also there on 22nd December. Elsewhere, single birds recorded at ten other sites between January and April. Birds were a mixture of adults and first- or second-years. In the second part of the year, an adult flew over Swillington Ings on 3rd December and a bird thought to be of the race Kumlien's Gull *Larus glaucoides kumlieni* was found roosting at Wintersett Res on 26th and 27th (but no description has been submitted).
VC 64 Six different individuals were at Bellflask Quarry between 6th January and 12th March.
VC 65 An adult was at Nosterfield NR on 19th/20th January, 27th February, 27th March and 14th April, with a first-year on 26th March, 8th and 16th April. An adult was at Lingham Lake on 26th March.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus* A 86,90,47,74,47

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

This species breeds in Iceland and on islands east to the Russian coast, and has in the past been more common than the smaller Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*, particularly on the coast, but recently this has not been the case. All records relate to birds in first- or second-winter plumage unless stated otherwise.

VC 61 In January birds were seen at Flamborough Head on 17th and 19th and Hornsea Mere and Spurn Point on 23rd. In February one north at Barmston on 19th, two at Filey also on 19th (incl. one adult), and one at Spurn on 28th. In March, one at Barmston and Bridlington on 11th, and an adult flew south at Spurn on 5th April. Second and third-summer birds were on Gallymoor landfill near Holme-on-Spalding Moor on 15th April, with the latter present on 16th, when a second-summer was seen at Flamborough. An adult was at Flamborough on 20th August, an adult at Gallymoor on 14th November, singles at Flamborough and Hornsea Mere on 17th and 26th November respectively and Filey on 24th, and in December an adult flew north at Spurn on 11th and first-winters were at Filey and Flamborough on 17th.
VC 62 In January, one was at Scalby Mills on 15th and another at Long Nab on 25th. A third-winter was at Rufforth on 15th and 18th February. An adult flew south past The Old Coastguard Lookout at Ravenscar on 19th March, followed by a first-summer bird at Scalby Mills on 18th April and past Jackson's Bay on 25th April. One was at Rufforth on 16th November and one was in the Wykeham gull roost on 17th December.
VC 63 At Swillington Ings an adult was seen on a number of dates in January and February along with a second-winter. The adult was seen again on 6th March with a first-winter on 7th and 8th March. Singles were also seen at Wintersett Res on 17th January, Blackmoorfoot Res on 15th January and 12th February and Pugneys CP on 18th March with adults there on 17th November and 2nd December. In the south and east of the VC single birds, adults and/or immatures, were recorded from a range of sites on fifteen dates between 15th January and 16th March. Additionally, an adult flew east past Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 3rd March and an immature bird passed the same site eastwards on 17th April.
VC 65 An adult at Nosterfield NR on 26th February was the only record for this formerly more frequent gull.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus* A
Fairly common passage migrant, winter visitor and non-breeding resident. BBS 3/166

The British population breeds on northern and western coasts. We have a continual presence due to immatures summering and adults wintering, probably from Scandinavia.
VC 61 Winter counts included 93 at Tophill Low and 200 at Leven bypass in January, 200 on Hornsea Mere on 26th February and 137 at Paull Holme Strays on 12th March. At Filey, 500 flew south on 10th September. At Flamborough, 310 on 2nd September, 330 on 15th October and 380 on 4th December were the highest counts.
VC 62 Present throughout the year along the coast but essentially a non-breeding visitor, the largest numbers being recorded in mid winter. The largest counts were 303 on south Tees in September and 300 south past Long Nab in three hours on 6th November and 950 in the Wykeham gull roost on 17th December.
VC 63 Abundant winter visitor with numbers much reduced during the summer months. Fairburn Ings RSPB had 550 in January with numbers averaging around forty until August with 215 noted in November and 100 in December. Small numbers of twenty or less were recorded at Pugneys CP during both winter periods much less than in previous years. Counts at Wintersett included 350 on 3rd January and 207 in December. The only count at Swillington Ings was 326 during March. At Southfield Res the peak roost counts were 650 on 25th January and 450 on 31st December, while the highest count of the year at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB was 220 on 7th January.
VC 64 Twenty-one were at Grimwith Res on 14th January, 29 at Skibden Landfill, Skipton on 23rd, five at Grimwith Res on 24th September and 15 at Ogden Water on 28th December.
VC 65 Present in small numbers at most of the larger waters in the winter months. Monthly maxima at Nosterfield NR were 524 in January, 327 in March and 209 in December. At Lingham Lake, maxima were 134 in January, 250 in February and 200 in November, while Flask's Lake held 138 in February, 250 in October and 200 in November.

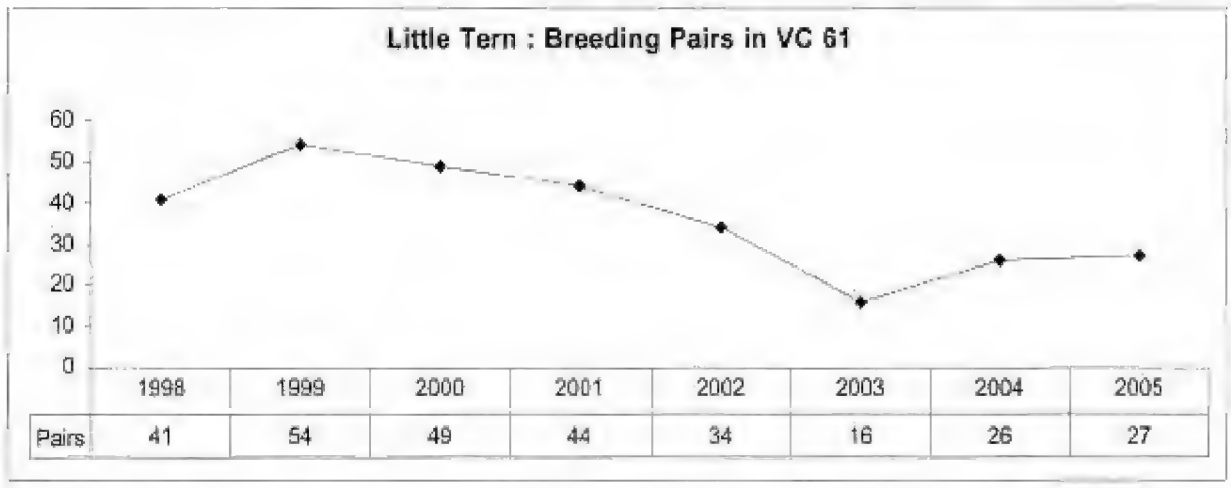
KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla* A
Amber list: common coastal breeder and passage migrant; scarce inland

Breeds along the coasts of northern Europe and the Arctic, with a huge colony at Bempton Cliffs RSPB. The only count there in recent years was 43433 apparently occupied nests (AON) in 2000. Productivity in 2005 was a relatively low 0.62/AON, a big improvement on 2004's all-time low of 0.19, but some way below the 1.18 of 2000.
VC 61 Breeds at Filey south to Flamborough. Breeding status at Flamborough unchanged and 7000 were logged there on 1st March. Northerly winds in May at Spurn produced good counts of 292 on 8th, 1023 on 9th, 1136 on 12th, and 895 on 13th. Inland records included single adults at Ellerton Ings on 9th and Tophill Low on 26th March, and at North Cave Wetlands, one on 30th April, one on 14th May, with an exceptional flock of six birds on the evening of 5th June. There is an intriguing record of an adult with red legs seen at Bempton and Filey Brigg on 29th August.
VC 62 Occupied nest counts included 5600 between Hunt Cliff and Cowbar, (a marked increase), 1449 at Castle Cliffs (RNH), 316 at Hundale, 63 Cloughton Wyke, 59 on The Grand Hotel, 19 on the West Pier, plus 19 on buildings adjacent to Sandside. The peak count logged past Long Nab was 400 on 14th August.
VC 63 north An adult at Fairburn Ings on 11thJanuary was an unseasonal record. In March, singles were at Pugneys CP on 18th, 19th and 28th, and Swillington Ings on 6th and 27th. April was the peak month with Fairburn Ings RSPB having 13 birds including six on 14th. Elsewhere Pugneys CP had one on 15th and two on 21st, Elland GP had one on 15th and Swillington Ings had a total of seven on various dates throughout

the month. Three were at Thornton Moor Res on 14th May and one at Ogden Water on 4th August. **VC 63 south** In March Southfield Res had one on 12th, two on 13th and two on 20th, with one on 13th April, and one on 25th August. Blacktoft Sands RSPB recorded single adults west on 21st March and 4th April and at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB one was present briefly mid-morning on 23rd October. Two were at Potteric Carr on 24th April. An adult flew east at Thorne NNR Moors on 1st April. Single birds in March and April were also at Wentworth and Rother Valley CP.
VC 64 Singles were at Staveley NR on 13th February, Farnham GP on 8th and 21st April and two were at Farnham GP on 29th May.

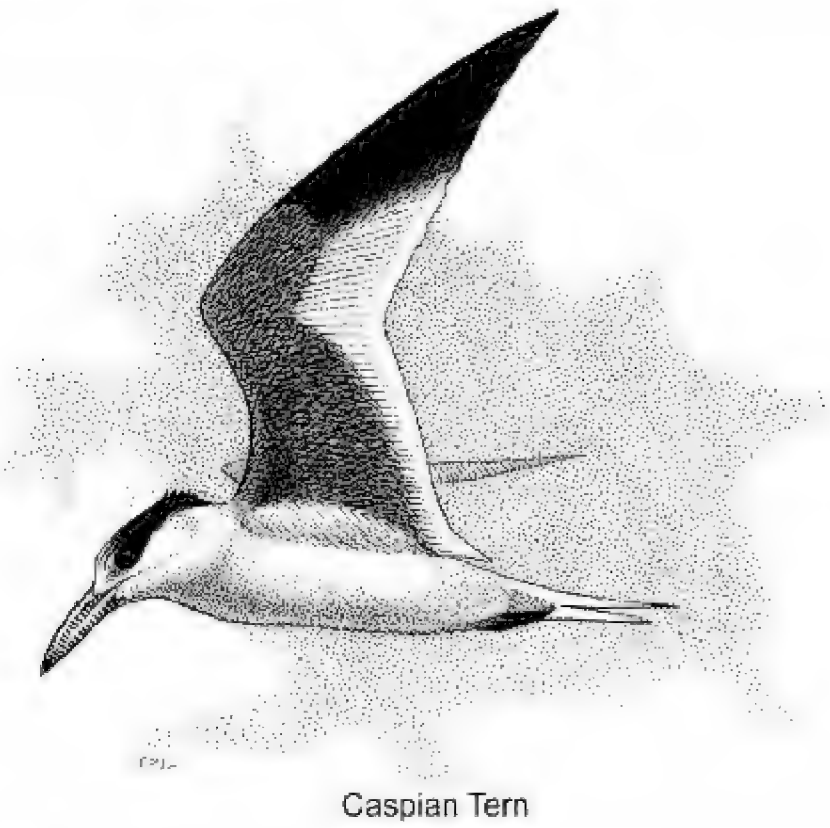
LITTLE TERN *Sterna albifrons* A

Amber list: scarce and localised breeding summer visitor and passage migrant
The nominate race breeding in Britain and Ireland winters off the coast of Africa.



	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Pairs	41	54	49	44	34	16	26	27

VC 61 Recorded at Spurn between 14th April and 13th September. The colony at Beacon Lagoons, Easington, enjoyed a relatively successful year, with the first chicks fledging since 2002. 56 adults were present, with 27 pairs nesting. The first of an estimated 41 chicks hatched on 26th June and despite bad weather and high tides in July, 28 fledged, 27 surviving. Other pairs attempted to nest at Spurn, but were unsuccessful. Elsewhere, two were seen at Flamborough Head on 11th June and another two on 21st August, and two (an adult and a juvenile) flew south at Filey on 26th July, followed by a single bird south on 9th August. PHENR hosted its second ever record on 1st May when one flew through with Common Terns *Sterna hirundo*. One visited Paull Holme Strays on11th September.
VC 62 Bred at South Gare, where five chicks were ringed in June.
VC 63 There was a remarkable influx on 1st May. Southfield Res recorded 12 on that date, comprising flocks of nine and three. Also on 1st May, one flew west over Swillington Ings, one spent five minutes at Anglers CP before leaving northeast, four flew over Fairburn Ings RSPB and one was at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB. Other singles were at Southfield Res on 26th May, at Tyrrham Hall GPs on 15th June and over New Stubbin, Rawmarsh on 20th June.
VC 64 One was at Staveley NR on 28th April and one, possibly the same, at Farnham GP on 29th.
VC 65 Three were at Lingham Lake on 1st May.



Caspian Tern

CASPIAN TERN *Hydroprogne caspia* **A** 0,0,0,0,1
Rare visitor; 32 previous records (27 birds)

Breeds from the Baltic and the Black Sea east to central Asia, with the European population wintering in West Africa. One picked up dead on the beach at Whitby in 1939 had been ringed at Lake Michigan in North America 12 years before.
VC 61 One flew south close inshore at an evening sea-watch at Spurn on 5th August (GCT *et al.*).

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger* **A**
Uncommon passage migrant in varying numbers

The commonest of the marsh terns; nests across Europe (not Britain) and winters in Africa.
VC 61 An early bird was at PHENR on 25th April. Four were at Tophill Low NR on 1st May. The only spring records at Spurn were a single on the Humber on 19th May and one north offshore on 5th June. A small passage of nine birds noted at Flamborough between 1st August and 24th September. Two juveniles south on 10th August were the first returning birds, then recorded almost daily in the evening roost movements until the last record on 14th September, with 10 on 25th August and 11 on 8th September. At least 13 birds recorded at Filey between 12th August and 2nd November. Two juveniles were at Hornsea Mere between 23rd and 28th August and 13 were at North Cave Wetlands on 13th August.
VC 62 Singles were on Newsham Pond, Smallways Lake on 2nd May and in September at Scaling Dam on 6th, at South Gare on 10th and off Staithes on 11th. Finally, three were off South Gare on 10th October.
VC 63 Spring passage started with three at Fairburn Ings RSPB on 30th April. In May 10 were noted at Fairburn Ings RSPB and Swillington Ings, and a total of five at Wintersett Res and Anglers CP on 1st, and two at Pugneys CP on 15th. Two singles were at Potteric Carr on 1st May, both over Low Ellers Marsh, before moving off to the north east. Two birds were at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB on the 15th of May. A single was also at Fairburn Ings RSPB from 12th to 14th June. In the autumn, Pugneys CP recorded six birds between 19th August and 11th September; one was at Ringstone Edge Res on 31st August: a juvenile fed at Lakeside, Doncaster on 3rd September and one was at Swillington Ings on 10th September. Wintersett Res had juveniles on 18th and 24th August, 11th September and a rather late bird from 11th to 13th October.
VC 64 Eight were at Farnham GP on 1st May, one over Staveley NR on 11th and one present on 19th.
VC 65 Two were at Lingham Lake on 1st May and a single was at Cleasby on the same date.

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis* **A**
Amber list: fairly common passage migrant and non-breeding summer visitor

The currently increasing western European population of the nominate race winters off West Africa.
VC 61 The first was at Filey on 15th March, then another on 26th. Numbers seemed down on last year, although counts of between 100 and 150 occurred on four occasions in July, with 176 south and 42 north on 12th August. High counts at Flamborough included 582 on 29th July, 341 on 9th August, 114 on 2nd September and 71 on 2nd October. Twelve were noted in November, with a late bird at Bridlington on 11th. The first of the year flew south at Spurn on 3rd April, followed by another on 7th. Daily counts were generally low until the evening roost movements started; the first saw 175 fly south on 16th June, but even these counts were well down on recent years and only ten three-figure counts were noted, with the highest being a mere 200 on 11th August. On the Humber, birds were notes at Paull on 27th June (two), 2nd and 13th July, and 15th August. Two late birds were at Spurn on 12th November.
VC 62 Two at South Gare on 30th March were the first of the year. Ever present along the coast from May to August, 177 were on the south Tees in July and 198 in August. 150 roosting at Scalby Mills on 30th August was a rather low peak count elsewhere. November records were singles at Scalby Mills on 5th, South Bay on 14th, Cromer Point on 15th and Kettleness on 20th.
VC 63 Six were at Worsbrough Res on 28th March. Singles were at Swinton on 20th March, Rother Valley CP on 26th and 27th April, Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 17th May and five at Southfield Res 18th July. Fairburn Ings RSPB had single migrants on 10th April, 1st May and 18th June with three over on 28th May. Two were found roosting at Swillington Ings in the early morning of 22nd April.
VC 64 One flew over Laycock on 9th April; three were at Farnham GP on 18th and one at Gouthwaite Res on the late date of 14th July.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo* **A**
Amber list: scarce breeding summer visitor and fairly common passage migrant

British birds of this Holarctic species winter along the West African coast. The small breeding population in the county has increased, taking the opportunities offered of newly formed islands and tern rafts on reserves.
VC 61 The first arrivals at Spurn were two on 15th April. Spring passage was light: good counts were logged July to mid-September, with 5965 on 11th, 4352 on 21st, and 4781 on 25th August, after which just small numbers were seen until 13th October. There were then three records in November – one on 7th, four on 9th, and one on 13th. First recorded at Flamborough on 1st May: 234 were noted on 23rd and 330 on 30th July, 1157 on 11th and 1810 on 13th August. Just ten recorded on first two days of October were the last. At Filey, 20 were roosting on the Brigg on 30th July, rising to 100 on 15th August and 500 on 27th. Three pairs at

North Cave Wetlands successfully fledged eight young between them and remained until the end of August. Three adults and three juveniles were at Allerthorpe Water Park on 30th July. Other inland records came from Tophill Low, Welton Water and PHENR, with 40 north at the latter on 1st May a record site count.
VC 62 The first in the Scarborough area was at Wykeham Lakes on 30th April followed by 13 flying north past Long Nab the next day. Seen regularly along the coast from 10th July to late September, the largest counts being 187 on south Tees in July, 104 north past Marine Drive on 9th August, 106 past Long Nab on 13th August, and 220 roosting at Scalby Mills on 27th August. The last two seen were at Scalby Mills on 5th November.
VC 63 north Single birds on 5th April at Pugneys CP and Swillington Ings were the first sightings for the year, with one at Elland GP on 14th. Five pairs raised seven juveniles at Pugneys CP, and one pair bred at Wintersett raising two young, which was the first breeding record there. No breeding details were received from Fairburn Ings RSPB but eight juveniles were noted on 24th July and up to 28 birds were seen during June and July. At least ten pairs bred at Swillington Ings with success difficult to determine due to the vegetation. A juvenile that flew south-west at Wintersett on 23rd October was the last of the year. Up to four birds recorded on passage between 10th May and 10th September at Doe Park, Elland GP, Leeshaw Res, Lower Laithe Res and Thornton Moor Res. **VC 63 south** Southfield Res had one on 11th April, then noted regularly from 19th April to 13th September with a maximum count of eight. At Old Moor Wetlands RSPB recorded between 17th April and 2nd September with a highest count for the year of 32 on 11th June, with 22 noted on the 9th August. Seven pairs attempted to breed and two pairs fledged four chicks. One or two birds recorded on five dates at Blacktoft Sands between 3rd May and 31st August. One to three seen regularly at Potteric Carr between 1st May and 10th September but no evidence of breeding.
VC 64 Up to three were at Otley Wetland during April and May with a pair raising two young. Also bred at Farnham GP with two pairs raising three young. Up to four birds recorded on passage Larkhill Tarn, Silsden and Yeadon Tarns, a site that formerly held good summering numbers. The last was at Hay-a Park on 15th October.
VC 65 The only passage of any note was 20 through Lingham Lake and 15 at Nosterfield NR on 1st May. There were singles at Lingham on 4th and 12th June plus two on 12th July.

ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii* A 40,36,81,87,125
Red list and UK BAP species: scarce coastal migrant, most frequent in late summer/autumn

A widespread species that breeds in the Americas, north-west Europe, southern Africa, through the Indian Ocean to Australasia. Nationally the population has recently increased. The breeding population on Coquet Island in Northumberland winters off north-west Africa and birds are increasingly seen off the Yorkshire coast in late summer and early autumn.
VC 61 The first of the year at Spurn was on 29th June, followed by one on 28th July, then between 11th August and 13th September 79 bird/days were logged. The occasional bird was seen on the Humber but most were seen in the evening tern roost movements. Higher counts were nine on 27th and 15 on 31st August, and seven on 7th and 13th September. At Flamborough two on 10th July, singles on 1st, 6th, 8th, 20th and 25th August with four on 13th, and singles in September on 3rd and 17th. At BPNR, one to two were seen between 20th June and 3rd September. An adult flew south off Atwick 19th July and two passed Barmston on 29th August. At Filey, an adult and a juvenile off the Brigg on 20th August were the first, followed by daily sightings from 27th to 31st August. Four adults and two juveniles were around the Brigg on 27th August and numbers then gradually declined, until just an adult and a juvenile remained on 31st. September sightings were confined to an adult and a juvenile on 9th.
VC 62 The first were two birds at South Gare on 16th June, and these birds were seen intermittently throughout the summer, accompanied by a juvenile in September, so may have bred. Elsewhere an adult flew north past Marine Drive Scarborough on 9th August, followed by an adult north at Long Nab on 13th and possibly the same past Cowbar on 14th, and two adults north at Long Nab on 20th August. Two passed Kettleness Point, Staithes on 28th and two on 31st. Three (one juvenile) roosted at Scalby Mills in the evening of 30th August, and an adult was at Cromer Point the following day.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea* A
Uncommon to fairly common passage migrant and non-breeding summer visitor

Breeds in northern Europe and the Arctic and winters at sea, making a journey between the two polar regions. Migrates across the county in spring, many leaving via the Humber.
VC 61 It was a poor spring at Spurn with just 246 heading east out of the Humber between 18th April and 23rd May with a maximum day count of 79 on 25th April. Return passage occurred from 18th July, and then small numbers were seen almost daily until mid-October, with the occasional bird after this to 2nd November and two late birds on 17th and 19th November. At Filey, singles seen on 20th and 23rd April, 1st May and seven on 16th July. It could then be seen virtually daily near the Brigg through to the end of August, with highest counts of 40 north on 22nd July and 27 north on 24th. Juveniles were recorded from 10th August through to October, with the last on 13th November. At Flamborough just nine recorded in May with the first on 1st, and only a handful in June, but returning birds in late July through to November, with high counts of 430 on 23rd July, 276 on 1st and 656 on 10th August. Just 24 in September, five in October and eight in November, the last of which was on 20th. Other sites where noted included Barmston, Ulrome and Atwick. Inland, in April, eight were at Hornsea Mere on 25th; two were at North Cave Wetlands on 26th, one at Tophill

Low on 27th and seven through on 30th. Two were at Paull Holme Strays on 5th August, and an immature flew north at PHENR on 23rd October.
VC 62 The only spring record was of 23 feeding off Long Nab on 16th May. In autumn recorded from 7th July, mostly less than 20, but 31 passed Long Nab on 14th August. October saw a higher than normal set of records. In November up to eight lingered offshore between Long Nab and Scalby Ness to the 7th, the last one off Scalby Mills on 12th.
VC 63 north In April five were at Pugneys CP on 14th, 22 on 18th and two on 26th, Wintersett had one on 20th and eight on 30th. Fairburn Ings RSPB recorded one on 18th, eight on 25th, nine on 26th, one on 27th and three on 30th. Swillington Ings noted one on 15th and four on 26th. Elland GP had singles on 7th and 8th May, eight were at Fairburn Ings RSPB on 1st, and four passed over Anglers CP on 1st. Also in May Swillington Ings noted three on 1st, five on 4th, two on 5th, six on 7th, and four on 8th. The only June record was three at Fairburn Ings RSPB on 12th. In the autumn Wintersett recorded the most individuals with singles on 24th and 28th July, and 24th August, with three on 25th and further singles on 26th and 28th. Four flew south-west on 10th September, and a juvenile on 16th. October produced two records both of juveniles on 5th and 15th. Other autumn records included singles at Fairburn Ings RSPB on 19th August and 10th September and a juvenile at Skelton Lake on 17th September. **VC 63 south** At Old Moor Wetlands RSPB one on the 16th and eight on 20th April, singles on 4th May and 19th July, four on 22nd August and the last, a juvenile, on 29th September. Doncaster Lakeside had two on 25th April and four on 30th with singles on 4th and 7th May while a single flew east at Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 19th April. Singles at Thrybergh and Rother Valley CPs in April, May and September with four at Thrybergh on 18th April and 4th May and at Rother Valley on 9th September with nine there on 26th April.
VC 64 Two were at Otley Wetland on 1st May when three were also at Farnham GP, with four at the latter site on 6th. One was at Staveley NR on 11th and a juvenile was at Farnham GP on 12th August.
VC 65 Three were at Lingham Lake on 26th April, then nine on 30th and 22 in six small parties moving through the site on the morning of the 1st May. A single was present on 21st May and two on 2nd July. Nosterfield NR had two on 30th April, three on 1st May and a single on 11th June.

GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge* A
Amber list: fairly common coastal breeder and passage migrant, less so in winter

A common seabird of the northern temperate oceans, susceptible to oiling.In 2000, 44893 individuals were counted in 2000, an increase of 24% from 1987.
VC 61 Many hundreds of the *albionis* subspecies nest on the North Cliffs at Filey where 3-figure plus counts regular on seawatches – e.g. 3230 flew south in three hours on 21st March. At Bempton, productivity was a little low at 0.53/AON. At Flamborough, no counts of the breeding population, but 6500 noted on 18th October. At Spurn small numbers were seen almost daily offshore, usually between one and 40, with 524 on 10th May and 467 on 7th July the highest counts. One was on the Humber at Paull on 29th January.
VC 62 The largest count in autumn was of 1100 south past Long Nab in three hours on 3rd October.

RAZORBILL *Alca torda* A
Amber list: fairly common coastal breeder/passage migrant, less common in winter

Breeds in the North Atlantic: the subspecies *islandica* found in Britain winters further south. The only recent count at Bempton was 8342 individuals in 2000, an 8% increase from 1987.
VC 61 At Filey, the year's only specific records were 400 south in three hours on 21st March and 75 on the sea on 25th. At Bempton, productivity was 0.42/AON. At Flamborough where it breeds, no counts were undertaken. Recorded occasionally in single figures throughout the year at Spurn, with high counts of 155 on 9th, and 226 on 10th May (the second highest count on record).
VC 62 Twenty-three pairs bred at Cowbar, a marked increase. Two hundred north past Long Nab on 12th June was the highest count of the year.

BLACK GUILLEMOT *Cepphus grylle* 4,0,3,0,2
Rare winter visitor and passage migrant

This circumpolar species breeds in northern Scotland where it is mostly sedentary, with only limited dispersal from its breeding colonies. It is a rare bird in the county
VC 61 A full summer-plumaged bird flew north at Spurn on 11th June (MJP) and on 31st August one flew north at Barmston (WFC).

LITTLE AUK *Alle alle* A 13725,282,12545,4282,1160
Amber list: uncommon to fairly common passage migrant/ winter visitor

This species breeds principally in Svalbard and north-west Greenland, wintering in the north Atlantic and the northern sector of the North Sea. The numbers recorded each year are the total birds seen from different coastal watch-points, and clearly involve some double counting.
VC 61 There were ten records in the early months: four north at Hornsea on 24th January; singles south at Spurn on 19th February and north two days later; five past Flamborough on 25th and six on 26th; two at Filey

on 26th and three on 27th; one north past Ulrome/Skipsea on 27th; two at Filey on 28th, and in March, one in Filey Bay on 5th and one, possibly the same, north on 6th. The first of the autumn were on 23rd October when 251 were logged north at Flamborough, 150 at Spurn and 17 at Filey. The following day 19 passed Filey, 50 at Flamborough, 33 passed Barmston, 246 were logged at Spurn including 12 over the Humber, and one was watched on 'D' Res, TLNR from 12.00 – 12.20 as it made several flights along the west edge of the reservoir in an effort to evade Coot which harassed it while on the water (TLo). One flew north at Spurn on 25th and one at Flamborough on 27th.
There were a few records in November. At Filey : one south on 13th, two in the Bay on 18th, 12 north on 26th and two north on 27th. At Flamborough: 19 on 17th, three on 19th, 18 on 26th and one on 27th. At Spurn: one flew south on 1st, two were seen on 13th, five north on 16th, 23 on 17th, one out east on 18th, one north on 25th, and 26 north on 26th. Elsewhere, three north at Ulrome on 16th and one by south pier wall at Bridlington, then north, on 18th. The only record for December was three at Flamborough on 3rd.
VC 62 The first widespread movement in the North Sea occurred on 24th January. On that day three were seen on the sea at Scarborough harbour mouth and one flew north past Long Nab. The next day one flew north off Marine Drive. On 27th February singles were seen at Jackson's Bay and South Bay. Two singles flew north off Marine Drive on the very early date of 22nd July. More normal was a series of November records; two south at Cowbar on 13th, two at Staithes on 13th while Marine Drive saw two north on 16th, 34 north on 17th, and five north on 18th. Lastly two flew north off Long Nab on 28th November. Inland one was picked up dead at Hold Cauldron, Kirby Moorside on 24th October.

PUFFIN *Fratercula arctica* A
Amber list: fairly common breeder and common passage migrant

Breeds on the coasts of northern France, Britain, Ireland, Scandinavia, Iceland and the Arctic. Winters well out to sea. At Bempton, 2500 were counted in the Operation Seabird survey of 2000: this remains the only count in recent years.
VC 61 One at Filey on 16th January, with subsequent high counts of 75 on both 25th March and 12th June and 210 north on 21st July. A late bird was on 24th November. At Flamborough, the breeding population is thought to be increasing. 11600 were noted on 21st July, 13200 on 22nd and 13800 on 25th. 44 were exceptional for November on 27th. A leucistic individual was seen on 25th June. Recorded in low numbers at Spurn between 7th January and 6th December, with the highest count 19 on 7th July.
VC 62 Frequently seen from May to July, the peak count being 110 past Long Nab in two hours on 10th July.

FERAL PIGEON/ROCK DOVE *Columba livia* AC4
A common breeding resident in towns and cities and along coastal cliffs
BBS 61/166: -8% (1) decrease 1994-2005, 46% (2) increase 2004-5

VC 61 Birds that resemble the ancestral form, together with more varied examples, breed along the cliffs from Sewerby northwards. At Filey, a flock of 1200 was counted in the North Cliff/Newbiggin area on 18th October. At Flamborough, 400 were counted on 25th March but probably more are present.
VC 62 A high count was 350 at Cloughton Wyke on 17th October.
VC 64 The ruins at Fountains Abbey have a large resident population. 140 were in Halifax Bus Station on 18th January.
VC 65 A feral flock was at Nosterfield NR throughout the year, and also regular at High Batts NR.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas* A
Amber list: fairly common resident; some passage and immigration
BBS 32.166: 93% (6) increase 1994-2005, 5% (-15) increase 2004-5

Local populations are sedentary, although Scandinavian birds may swell numbers in winter. The population continues to increase, particularly in North and East Yorkshire.
VC 61 Resident throughout the VC. The breeding survey at Tophill Low suggested 10-11 pairs. There was a very good autumn passage at Spurn, where between 5th October and 11th December, 555 flew south, including 47 on 26th October, 57 on 1st, 193 on 4th, and 54 on 12th November.
VC 62 A widespread breeding bird in small numbers. One flying in off the sea at Long Nab in the early morning of 6th November was interesting. The population in Fennoscandia is totally migratory.
VC 63 In the Halifax area there was thirty-four records from fourteen sites with breeding proven at Luddenden Dean, where two young were ringed. In January, 44 were at Cononley Ings: in March, 22 were at Jay House Lane, Brighouse on 9th and 28 were noted at Cold Edge on 15th and 50 at Cononley Ings in April. At least two pairs bred in the Swillington area with 60 on 29th January the largest flock seen. Forty were noted regularly at Fairburn Ings RSPB during the winter months with an average of ten during the summer. Smaller numbers were seen infrequently at Wintersett and Pugneys CP with at least one pair breeding in the Wintersett area. Old Moor Wetlands RSPB had a maximum of 180 on the 1st of November and ten pairs nested in the area. At Blacktoft Sands RSPB good numbers were feeding in fields adjacent to the reserve in early part of the year with 55 on 24th February and 115 on 3rd March. Two pairs bred on reserve. The highest count at the end of the year was eight on 16th November. Beal Carrs had an early-year peak of c.35 on 9th May and displaying

birds were seen on 27th May and 18th June but breeding was not proved. A late-year maximum of *c*.65 was recorded there on 8th and 10th November. At Cullingworth, 20-43 birds were seen in the final three months of the year.
VC 64 An under-recorded bird with the only counts being: 22 at North Deighton in January; 80 at Lees Moor, 36 at Staveley NR and 60 at Gouthwaite Res in February; 30 at Sunnydale; 18 at Norwood Bottom in March; 40 at Sunnydale in October and 20 at Beamsley in November.
VC 65 Up to six were at High Batts NR and one or two around Nosterfield NR.

WOOD PIGEON *Columba palumbus* A

Abundant and widespread resident and passage migrant/winter visitor
BBS 148/166: 65% (22) increase 1994-2005, 14% (3) increase 2004-5

VC 61 Abundant, often joined for winter by large numbers from the Continent. High winter counts included 4500 at Atwick on 27th January and 5000 there on 19th December, 800 at PHENR in February and 900 in November, 1100 at Paull Holme Strays in April and 900 at Tophill Low in March. Spring passage at Spurn was light, but it was the best autumn for southerly passage for several years. Between 7th September and 4th December, 3989 passed and 280 U-turned. The bulk of passage occurred late October to mid-November and saw high counts of 568 on 26th October, 2260 on 4th and 300 on 14th November. October migration at Flamborough included 780 on 27th, 700 on 28th and 580 on 29th.
VC 62 A very common bird in the district, feeding flocks particularly evident in The Carrs. A flock of 2000 was seen to the south of Wykeham Lakes on 9th January.
VC 63 Common widespread breeding bird and winter visitor. The most notable counts were in the Halifax area in January with 300 at Midgley, 500 at Walshaw Dean, 1000 east over Mount Tabor, 1250 north over Luddenden Dean and 2000 at Eastwood, Todmorden. 8040 passed through Thornton Moor Res during January with 6130 on 2nd and 1190 counted there on 1st November with 1160 on 5th. Also in January, 700 were noted at Fairburn Ings RSPB, with 80 there on 29th October. At Swillington Ings 500 were recorded on Astley hillside in April and over 500 frequented the Knostrop area in November. The maximum count at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB was *c*.1320 on 8th January and during May a minimum of 18 pairs was estimated to be holding territory. Beal Carrs' highest count was of *c*.200 on 27th February and 31st December and at Potteric Carr the maximum was 370 on 23rd October.
VC 64 In January, 1000 were at Norton Conyers on 9th, 1800 at Butler Hill on 18th and 1500 at Farnham GP on 8th February with 1000 at Bellflask Quarry in early March. 1500 were at Staveley NR on 15th October.
VC 65 Common and widespread. Largest counts are as follows: Lingham Lake area 1600 on 16th March; Nosterfield NR, 300 in March with late high counts of 570 on 24th April and 730 on 15th May. In autumn 500 were in the High Batts NR area on 45th October.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto* A

Common resident. BBS 87/166: 2% (38) increase 1994-2005, -11% (-4) decrease 2004-5

Having arrived in Britain in 1952, this species continues to expand in the north-west of Britain, but its population in Yorkshire is now fairly constant.
VC 61 Common but under-recorded: numerous in parts of Hull, with a three-figure winter roost in East Park, the highest counts submitted were 26 at Ulrome and 16 at Nafferton Mere.
VC 62 Particularly successful in villages in The Carrs. A flock of 30 were near Cayton on 2nd September, and 22 at Willerby on 19th September.
VC 63 Present in small numbers at most locations, usually near buildings, although this species tends to be under-recorded. Old Moor Wetlands RSPB had a maximum of 70 on 8th January and a minimum of 25 pairs held territory in the spring. Sixty were at Fairburn Ings RSPB in September, with 54 at Northowram on 24th August and 39 at Wintersett village on 2nd October.
VC 64 Very much under-recorded, but is common throughout the area particularly around habitation. Counts: 40 at Fountains Abbey on 1st January and up to 56 in a garden at Hutton Conyers during November and December.
VC 65 Common and widespread especially around human habitation. Up to 40 birds could be seen near Lingham Lake.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur* A

Red list and UK BAP species: scarce and declining breeding summer visitor. BBS 3/166

The West European populations migrate south-west to winter in the drought-stricken Sahel zone. The national population has fallen by 44% since 1994, contracting eastward and southward, and it is becoming increasingly scarce in Yorkshire.
VC 61 One present at a garden bird table at Skipwith since Christmas was taken by a Sparrowhawk in February. The first arrival at Spurn was a single on 1st May after which single figures were seen almost daily until 12th September with a high count of nine on 5th August. Passage consisted of 26 moving south between 2nd May and 1st June, and maximum counts of seven on 23rd and 29th May. Singles were seen on four more dates in September and then three on 1st and the last record of two on 2nd October. At Flamborough, 22 were recorded between 4th May and 19th June. At Filey one arrived on 7th May, with a

second on 20th that remained to 22nd. Four pairs bred at Spurn, and other sites holding birds in May and/or June included Goodmanham, Kiplingcotes (eight birds noted), Pauli, PHENR, South Dalton, South Cliffe and Watton. Present but probably did not breed, at Tophill Low.
VC 62 Just two spring sightings: one at Scalby Lodge on 15th May, followed by one at Silpho on 30th May. A pair was at Harwood Dale Lake on 5th June, one was singing in Wykeham Forest on 20th June, and two over Burniston on 27th June. In July three were at Cromer Point on 8th, and two over Rocks Lane, Long Nab on 10th. August saw one at Cromer Point on 13th, and the last one was on wires at Long Nab on 30th.
VC 63 The main stronghold for this species is now the Wintersett area with the first birds arriving on 1st and 4th May. Eight males were on breeding territory until late July with one still calling on 2nd August, the last being noted on 29th August. The first at Fairburn Ings RSPB was on 21st May, with a pair seen from 20th June to 28th July on breeding territory. Southfield Res had its worst year ever with just three records - one flew south-west on 23rd May, two on Went Ings on 18th July and one flew east on 16th September. Five records of singles at Blacktoft Sands RSPB: 25th, 27th and 28th April, 19th May and 12th July. Up to four were regularly recorded at Thorpe Marsh between 2nd May and 31st July and breeding is thought to have occurred. Only five records at Potteric Carr, all of single birds, with one singing on 15th May. Beal Carrs, where habitat is not suitable, only recorded two flying south on 20th May. A few recorded on Thorne Moors NNR with at least four on 28th May and 26th June and one or two at Thrybergh and Rother Valley CPs and Firsby Res between 1st April and 9th August.
VC 64 Singles were at Staveley NR on 12th and Great Ouseburn on 20th May, with two on 22nd; at Ellington Banks on 25th June and Hay-a-Park on 18th August.
VC 65 Becoming scarce – singles were at East Tanfield on 1st May and at Lingham Lake on 25th and 29th June, 9th and 14th July.

ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri* C1E* -,-,-,21,9
Rare breeding species and vagrant/escape

In 2004 two pairs nested in North Derbyshire, with at least one successful. In light of the massive increases in the feral British breeding population, and the BOURC's decision to give it a C1E* categorisation, this species was moved into the main list in 2004, to keep in line with BOU categorisation. All Yorkshire records may still be attributable to escapes, however, and until a self-supporting population is established, or ringing evidence proves dispersal from self-sustaining populations elsewhere in England, it is not yet "officially" on the YNU's Yorkshire Category C list.
VC 61 One was at PHENR on 8th February.
VC 62 One flew over Baytown, Robin Hoods Bay 20th June and presumably the same bird was seen at Whitby on that date. A female was at Acklam from late July to the year-end and was seen prospecting nest holes. Two were at Little Preston on 22nd October. Another female was at Nunthorpe from 24th to 29th November.
VC 64 One was at Fairburn Ings on 22nd January. Two were at Little Preston on 22nd October and presumably the same pair then took up residence in an Armley garden from 30th November to the year-end.

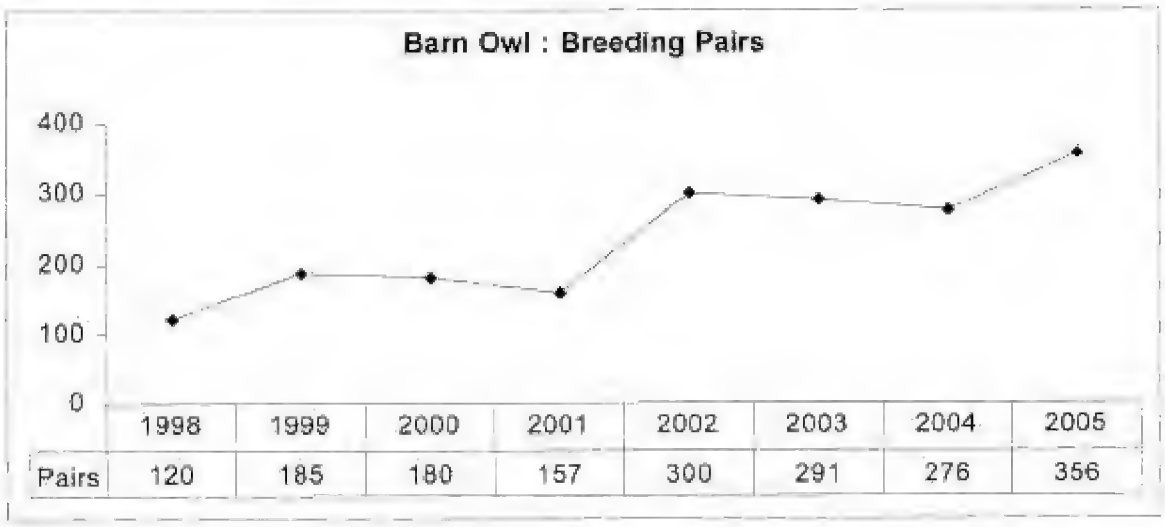
CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus* A
Amber list: fairly common to uncommon breeding summer visitor
BBS 34/166: -34% (-46) decrease 1994-2005, -28% (-4) decrease 2004-5

A widespread Palearctic species that winters south of the Sahara. After picking up slightly in 2004 there was a notable decrease this year in the number reported.
VC 61 One was at Thorganby on 15th Aril, and one calling at Hornsea Mere on 17th. Recorded at Filey and Spurn on 23rd April, with just six further records at Filey. At Spurn, one to three seen almost daily until 11th August, with a peak count of five, and late birds on 20th and 27th August and 1st–5th September. At least one young was raised at the Point.30 were recorded at Flamborough between 2nd May and 7th September. In the Hull Valley area, noted as a good year generally, with four males attracting mates at Tophill Low. A juvenile there on 24th September was the last.
VC 62 Recorded between 11th April when one was at New Marske, and 1st September, when the last was at Scaling Dam, with a widespread arrival in early May.
VC 63 A calling male at Haw Park, Wintersett and one at Pugneys CP on 17th April were the first for the spring. The main arrival took place at the end of April/early May with a maximum count of seven at Wintersett on 21st May. Breeding females were seen prospecting for nests in at least six sites within the Wintersett area. In the Halifax area birds were noted at eighteen sites mainly from fringe moorland areas with the last bird for the year at Cold Edge on 1st August. At Blacktoft Sands RSPB continues to decline. One singing on 30th April, then two on 9th June, one on 28th June and one on 5th July the only records. Recorded between 25th April and 6th July at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB, where the highest count of the year was six on 29th May. A hepatic female was recorded around Old Moor from 20th May to 26th June with two hepatic females seen together on Wath Ings on 18th of June. Now extremely scarce in the area around Beal Carrs with the only records being of singing males passing through on 18th May and 6th June. Southfield Res had single birds on eighteen dates between 17th April and 25th June. At Thorpe Marsh up to two on 18 dates between 18th April and 1st August. Marked decline in records at Potteric Carr with four records only, including one on 7th August. Scarce on Thorne Moors NNR.
VC 64 First returning bird at Great Ouseburn on 15th April, then Staveley NR on 22nd, Addingham Moorside

on 23rd, Coldstone Beck on 25th, Marton-cum-Grafton on 26th, Hebdon Beck on 29th and Spofforth on 30th. Most arrivals during May. Reported from throughout the area at both moorland and lowland sites. A late record was one at Barden Viewpoint on the 7th August.
VC 65 Thinly distributed with most sightings on high ground. There were several records in the Nosterfield/ Lingham area between 17th April and 11th June and two at High Batts NR on 31st May and 2nd June.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba* A
Amber list: uncommon resident breeder, rare in north-west. BBS 7/166

The population of this globally widespread species is still increasing locally, particularly in the east, with at least 235 proven breeding pairs, and probably over 350 pairs present.



	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Pairs	120	185	180	157	300	291	276	356

VC 61 Estimated to be 175-200 pairs east of the Wolds (360 *pulli* ringed from 126 nests), with between 39 and 71 nests in the LDNNR area. Two pairs nested at Filey. A dark-breasted bird of the race *guttata* was at Carnaby on 15th January, one near the reserve entrance at Spurn on 27th October (2nd Spurn record) and one near Withernsea school on 21st November.
VC 62 Two pairs were present at Strensall Common, one rearing 5 young. In Ryedale, 45 pairs raised 176 young, a successful year although a decrease in 30 young on 2004. In the Scarborough area it was recorded from 16 sites and breeding pairs are thinly scattered throughout the district. It was particularly successful in The Carrs. Reports this year came from Cayton Carr (up to four birds), Cloughton Wyke, Coomboots, Cowbar, Harwood Dale, Hutton Buscel, Mowthorpe, Ruston Carr, Sherburn Ings, Star/Flixton Carrs, Willerby Carr, Wykeham Abbey, Wykeham Lakes and Grange. Three possible pairs were in South Cleveland, where four road casualties were found.
VC 63 One was at Potteric Carr on 9th January. Two pairs bred in the Swillington area with one pair raising five young. Outside the breeding season singles were seen on 4th January and 5th and 6th December. In June two birds were found to be hunting over rough areas during June and July at Wintersett with further observations suggesting they were feeding young. A report of one at Blackmoorfoot Res on 8th March was the only record in that area. Recorded at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB on sixteen days through the year. A single pair bred on the reserve at Blacktoft Sands RSPB and at least four other locally breeding pairs regularly fed on the reserve during the spring and summer. At least ten pairs are thought to breed in the Doncaster district. One was seen near Beal Carrs late on 15th December.
VC 64 Bred: Great Ouseburn, raised three young from four, one seen carrying prey item at Thorpe Underwood on 27th July, a pair at Hunsingore with possible breeding at Spofforth and Little Ribston area. One at Welshford Bridge on 27th February, Tockwith on 6th March and Cattal Bridge on 5th January, 2nd and 30th May and 27th June with one at Bramham Hall in June and July. Road casualty at Dishforth on 20th September. Twenty-eight sightings at Staveley NR from September to year end. Still a scarce visitor to the BOG recording area.
VC 65 In the Catterick area a pair bred and four young were ringed. One was dead on the A1 near Dishforth on 20th September.

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua* C1
Uncommon resident in south and west, scarce in east. BBS 9 /166

Introduced into England as recently as 1842. Only recorded from BBS squares in North and West Yorkshire, reflecting its general distribution.
VC 61 Common in the west of the VC in the Derwent Valley, where 100+ pairs estimated. Pairs present at Bracken, Eske, Flamborough, Foston, Kilham, Kiplingcotes, North Cave Wetlands, Paull Holme, Southfield, Watton, Weaverthorpe, Wharram-le-Street, Wiganthorpe and Woodmansey. Resident at Filey between March and October. At Spurn, it is an occasional visitor usually in winter, with one present on Beacon Lane for most of the winter and seen at Spurn on 22nd January, and others seen on 23rd October and 13th November.
VC 62 Widespread and thinly distributed. Records came from Starr/Flixton Carr, Scalby Lodge, Long Nab, Burniston, Cloughton Wyke, and Silpho. One was flushed at South Gare on 9th September.

VC 63 Records were received from 23 sites across the Halifax area, with no proof of breeding, although it no doubt occurred. Six pairs were in the Cononley area but only one was confirmed breeding, and a bird attending a nest at Oxenhope. Other reports received included six pairs in the Wintersett area, one pair at Blackmoorfoot Res. and Pugneys CP and two pairs at Swillington Ings one of which bred successfully. A pair was also resident throughout the year at Fairburn Ings RSPB. Two pairs held territory at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB where there was a maximum count of five on 24th December.
VC 64 Birds are essentially rural with reports from throughout the area both from the high and low ground although has been observed within four miles of Bradford. Reports came from: Baildon, Barden, Gouthwaite Res, Heyshaw Moor, Leeshaw, Pateley Bridge, Plompton Rocks, St Ives and Studley. Four pairs nested at Littlethorpe, one with four young on 21st March. Young were also observed in the Yeadon area where there appears to be a healthy population.
VC 65 Several pairs are resident in the Nosterfield/Lingham area. At Catterick five young from two broods were ringed.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco* A
Fairly common and widespread resident. BBS 5/166

A sedentary species of woodlands, parks and gardens, regularly a victim of road kills. Under-recorded, especially on BBS surveys that are conducted during the day.
VC 61 Common. Two pairs bred at Tophill Low (none in 2004).
VC 62 Common in the forests and larger woods.
VC 63 Reasonably common in suitable habitats. Proven breeding records received were a pair at Pugneys CP and two pairs at Wintersett Res. Two males held territory at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB in the early part of the year.
VC 64 Confirmed breeding at Bastow, Carlton Wood, Dob Park, Ellar Ghyll, Lower Grass Wood, Luddenden Dean, Menston, Middleton Woods, Nell Bank, Pool Mill and Thruscross - ten nests located producing at least 14 young. Three pairs bred at Littlethorpe of which two raised two young. At Smelt Houses a dog appeared from a barn with a juvenile in its mouth. The bird was uninjured and placed in a tree. Ten road casualties reported.
VC 65 On a good night seven birds could be heard calling in the Nosterfield NR area. A pair bred at High Batts NR and six adults and 22 young were ringed in boxes in the Catterick area.

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus* A
Scarce breeding resident, passage migrant and irruptive winter visitor

Very little data available, and very under-recorded, but population may be stable. Scandinavian migrants of this Holarctic circumpolar species are seen on the coast in autumn.
VC 61 Breeds in some Wolds valleys, although little confirmation. Five young were ringed at one site this year, however. Also breeds in heathland woods in the west of the VC, and occasionally in Holderness. One found roosting at North Cave Wetlands on 3rd May was a first for the site. On the coast, one was in Easington on 3rd February. Recorded at Flamborough on 28th March, and then in October on 14th, 17th (two) and 30th. One flew in-off at Bempton on 31st March. At Spurn, singles on 3rd April and 9th May were the only records in the first half of the year. A single appeared in the Triangle on 9th, 10th, 12th, and 13th July, and it or another on 31st. A juvenile that was found exhausted on the road at the Narrows on 6th August died later the same day. In autumn, one on 12th September, then in October, one 16th, one on 17th, four on 22nd, and the last of the year was seen on 30th. At Filey, two came in-off on 15th October, with another the following day, then singles on 19th October and 1st November.
VC 62 Breeding was proven at Strensall Common, where three young were calling on 1st July and another heard nearby, and one was in Guisborough forest on 29th May. One bird at Burniston was heard calling in January, March, August, and October. A spring migrant was at South Gare on 12th April, and five autumn migrants were recorded on the coast. Two were at Slingsby on 1st December.
VC 63 Considered to be a poor year in the Halifax area, although not as many areas were checked as usual, with one pair proven to have bred. Two birds were present at Fairburn Ings RSPB from the beginning of the year to at least 10th August with breeding having taken place. Singles were found roosting at Willow Wood, Wintersett on 19th February and at High Royd Sewage Halifax on 11th December. During the early part of the year, until early March, up to five birds were recorded in a roost at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB. Up to eight pairs were present on Thorne Moors NNR and a juvenile was seen there on 14th July. A pair was seen feeding young on Bradfield Moor on 5th June, with young recorded at other sites in the Sheffield area, also in June.
VC 64 Three flushed from a tree at Spofforth Haggs in March with birds reported in November and December, one at roost at Staveley NR on 23rd and 25th September, two on 27th November and one to four from 4th to 31st December. One was at Barden Moor on 18th April. Four pairs in the Harrogate area raised nine young with one outcome unknown and eleven pairs in the BOG area raised a minimum of 22 young. At least two pairs used the baskets provided.
VC 65 The only record was of an adult caught and ringed in the Catterick area.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus* A

Amber list: rare moorland breeder; uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 7/166

Populations fluctuate according to the vole cycle. Pairs in YDUBSA fell from a maximum number of 22 pairs in 2002 to 13 in 2004, and this year saw few proven breeding records. Continental migrants join British wintering birds on the coast.

VC 61 Migrants and wintering birds were reported from coastal locations including Filey, Bempton, Easington and Spurn, and birds also wintered on the flood banks along the Humber at Welwick, Sunk Island and Paull Holme Strays with up to three birds noted at each site. Typical was eleven recorded at Flamborough with four on 22nd January, four on April 17th, and up to three in October and December. May birds included one at Holmpton on 2nd, one at Sunk Island on 8th, one flying out to sea at Filey on 20th and one near Easington on 4th June. One at Spurn on 31st May, 11th June, and 8th to 9th July may have summered locally. The first of the autumn was along the canal at Spurn on four dates between 19th and 26th August and there was an influx there in October, when six were seen on 14th. Mid-October to mid-November saw three fly south and seven come in off the sea at Spurn, and 16 records at Filey. Inland, wintering or passage birds were at Willerby Carrs, Cottingham on 15th January and 13th March, Bransholme Hull from 27th January to 6th March, Brough airfield on 14th March and 7th April, and in April at Wressle on 2nd, North Duffield Carrs on 20th and PHENR on 23rd.

VC 62 Up to three birds were wintering at Old Scarborough Tip in the first three months of the year, and one at Askam Bryan on 28th February. The last of spring were three in the Flixton/Seamer Carr area on 19th April. One was over the moors at Guisborough on 7th May. It was a good autumn for migrants, the first being five in off the sea on 15th October, singles at Boulby, Cloughton and Scalby Mills, and two at Jackson's Bay. Two were at Boulby on 16th, with singles at South Gare on 16th and 17th. Also on 17th, two singles flew over the Scalby Lodge area and another came in off the sea there the next day. Apart from one at South Gare on 27th November, the remainder of the records came from Star Carr where birds were first seen on 31st October and remained to early December peaking at five on 10th November.

VC 63 north Sixty four records from twelve sites within the Halifax area between 27th February and 12th October. Six pairs were located on breeding territory with two young seen at Fly Flatts. At Swillington Ings at least three, sometimes four, birds were seen hunting over the area with one bird displaying during April and May. Having remained until the 10th May the birds suddenly disappeared with the last sighting on 23rd May. Birds returned on 9th August with a maximum of four during October seen on many occasions to the end of the year. Birds were also displaying at Cold Edge Dams. Elsewhere Fairburn Ings RSPB had eight sightings of a single between 9th January and 6th June, one flew over Durkar Flatts on 23rd October, and one was at Anglers CP on 30th October. **VC 63 south** One on Thorne Moors NNR on 1st January and at Southfield Res up to two regularly reported between 25th January and 12th April. Singles were at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB on 6th March and 26th, 28th and 30th of April. Blacktoft Sands RSPB had a relatively good start to the year with up to two regularly until the 13th April and three on 17th February. Recorded on two dates in May and the last spring record was a single on 3rd June. It was a more typical end to the year with singles on 22nd November and 31st December. Beal Carrs had single birds on eight dates in January and February and on 13th November. One roosted at Potteric Carr on 9th and 10th December.

VC 64 Up to two birds were reported from Barden Scale in January and February with two on 19th March, and also from Hebden in the spring. Reported in the breeding season from High Shelding on 8th March, one at Farnhill Moor on 8th April, Greenhow Hill on 11th, two at Blubberhouses on 12th, Shelding Moor on 16th, two on Hayshaw Moor on 18th, Foxup Moor on 27th May, Bewerley on 5th June, and Hoadsworth on 18th and Colsterdale on 22nd July. A pair on Askwith Moor reared three young, an adult at Waverley Moor was feeding two juveniles and birds were seen carrying food at Barden. Singles were at Staveley NR on 16th April, 27th October, 1st November and 31st December. Reported from Baildon and Esholt SW sites not normally associated with this species.

NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus* A

Red list and UK BAP species: uncommon breeding summer visitor and passage migrant

This Palearctic species winters in East and southern Africa, with a British population of 4,600 pairs. Nationally the population increased by 35 % 1992-2004. In Yorkshire, its range is restricted by habitat, but the population has been increasing, now including 2-3 pairs in the YDUBSA. The National Nightjar Survey 2004 found the following churring males: East Yorkshire: 8, North Yorkshire: 229 (up from 114 in 1992), South Yorkshire: 37 (down from 89 in 1992) and West Yorkshire: 0 (down by 1):- overall an increase of 62. This year numbers in South Yorkshire showed a small increase.

VC 61 One was on road in the evening of 24th May opposite the Bluebell in Kilnsea. On 28th May, one came in off the sea at BPNR.

VC 62 A widespread summer visitor to the forests. The first was one at Rudland on 26th May. Records came from Dalby Forest, Fylingdales Moor, Langdale End, Slingsby, Wykeham Forest and Harwood Dale Forest, the latter site holding at least ten churring males in June/July. Single churring birds were also heard at Worlds End Plantation, Strensall and Yearsley Commons, and a pair bred successfully for the second year running near Guisborough, rearing three young.

VC 63 Present on Thorne Moors NNR from 20th May with 44 males on territory. On Hatfield Moors, 27 churring males were recorded. One or two pairs were present in the Sheffield area.

VC 64 Bred at the usual site in the BOG recording area but the young were predated. One 'churring' on Sawley High Moor on 11th June, a male at Scar Road tunnel on 10th July with a different bird on 12th.

CHIMNEY SWIFT *Chaetura pelagica* **A** 0,0,0,0,1
Vagrant; one previous record in 2000

A fairly widespread summer breeder in eastern North America, wintering in South America, particularly Peru. 2005 saw a late-autumn influx to Britain of at least eight birds, following Hurricane Wilma.
VC 61 One flew south at Spurn Point on 4th November (AAH: DH: MFS). It passed the sea-watching hut at 9.09 hrs and the Narrows before feeding for an hour over the Point, leaving at 10.29. One had been seen on 2nd in Northumberland, so it was not unexpected. A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding 14:4 pp 118-119.*

(COMMON) **SWIFT** *Apus apus* **A**
Common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant
BBS 93/166: 0% (-22) no change 1994-2005, -11% (-1) decrease 2004-5

A decrease in breeding numbers noted again this year of this trans-Saharan migrant, after a recovery in 2004 from the low of 2003. Changes to roof design may be causing some local populations to decrease.
VC 61 One at Flamborough on 2nd April was exceptionally early, with the next at North Cave Wetlands on 14th. 2300 were at Tophill Low on 4th May and 5000 over Hornsea Mere in rain on 1st June. Birds had left the breeding sites by 31st August. High summer counts of birds flying south at Filey included 1200 on 28th May and 1000 on 3rd July. Flamborough counts included 322 on 28th May and 248 on 18th June, while at Spurn they included 2350 on 28th May; 2166 on 16th and 2400 on 19th June; 4200 on 1st, 1400 on 3rd, and 3500 on 19th July. A total of 31,302 south were logged at Spurn between 26th April and 27th September. Last reported at Flamborough and Spurn on 9th October.
VC 62 First seen at Burniston on 27th April and the last at Scalby Mills on 5th November. 2050 flew south in just over three hours on 3rd July at Long Nab.
VC 63 The first for the year was one at Wintersett on 23rd April with most places recording their first the following day. Breeding was reported in the older housing estates in the villages of Ryhill and Crofton, Elland, Pellon Lane, Rye Lane and Shibden in the Halifax area. In the spring 500 were noted over Skelton Lake on 13th May with a similar number over Swillington Ings on several dates from late May to early June. Other counts in May were 100 at Soil Hill, 140 at Cold Edge Dams and 380 at Thornton Moor Res with 280 in June. Fairburn Ings RSPB had counts of *c.* 600 in May, 900 on 26th June and 700 in July. On 3rd July 750 moved south west over Cold Edge Dams and leaving birds at Thornton Moor Res numbered *c.*2800 in July with a peak of 1491 on 3rd and 450 were at Cononley Ings on 4th August. Recorded between 24th April and 25th September at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB where there was a peak count of 2180 on 13th June. First recorded at Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 16th April then low number until a usual influx in early May with 300 present on 4th. Good numbers were feeding over lagoons in June with a peak count of 2000 on 22nd, low numbers after end of July and in September, two on 15th and 17th with the last single on 20th.
VC 64 First back at Otley Wetland on 17th April with two at Fishergreen, Ripon and one at Farnham GP on 24th, where 20 next day and becoming widespread by the end of the month. Counts in May were 200 at Farnham GP and 150 at Otley Wetland. Also in June: 250 at Farnham GP on 12th and 500 at Cattal on 18th. 250 were at Thornborough on 3rd August with 170 at Bradley Ings, 'many' moved south over Bellflask Quarry on 8th and 250 were at Staveley NR on 31st. The last was a late bird at Silsden on 13th October. A pair raised two young in a nest box at Bishop Monkton but no other breeding records.
VC 65 Common summer visitor, the first was at Nosterfield NR on 24th April.

PALLID SWIFT *Apus pallidus* **A** 2,0,0,2,2
Vagrant; 6 previous records

The breeding range of this species extends from the Canary Islands, through the Mediterranean and the Middle East, to southern Iran. Most British records have been of juvenile wanderers in late autumn. Two late records for 2004 were accepted by BBRC (see appendix).
VC 61 One first seen over Clubley's Field at 11.45 was seen over the Triangle and Sandy Beaches caravan site for an hour at Spurn on 30th October (JHe: BRS *et al.*).
VC 62 One patrolling the beach at South Gare on 2nd November was seen well and photographed (MDR *et al.).*

PACIFIC SWIFT *Apus pacificus* **A** 0,0,0,0,1
Vagrant; no previous records

Breeds in western Siberia east to Japan, wintering in SE Asia and Australasia. There are three previous British records, including one caught off Norfolk in sea area Humber in 1981.
VC 61 One flew south at Spurn Point at 1640 hrs on 1st July (MJP). A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding 14:3 pp 99-100.*

ALPINE SWIFT *Apus melba* **A** 1,3,1,2,2
Rare migrant from southern Europe; 66 previous records

Breeds discontinuously from North-west Africa east to North Pakistan, and can turn up from very early in spring through summer to late autumn.
VC 61 Singles were seen at Sammy's Point, Easington on 25th May (AJS: MFS) and south at 0725 hrs at The Narrows, Spurn on 29th May (NPi: AR).

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis* **A**
Amber list: uncommon to scarce resident breeder. BBS 5/166

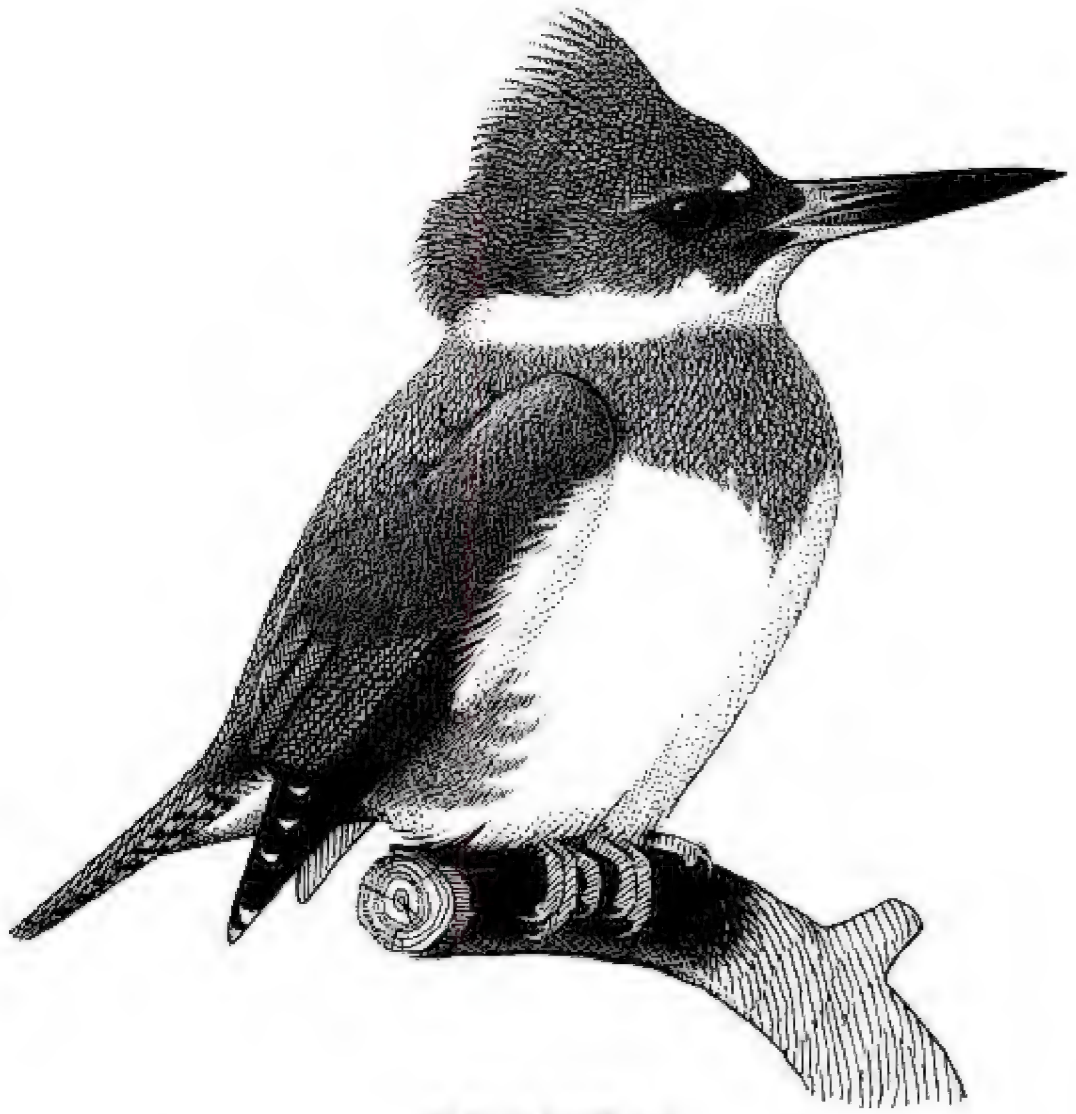
47-88 pairs are thought to breed in the county, but proof of nesting is often difficult to obtain, many waterways are not regularly surveyed. Casual records suggest it is increasing, with records from many streams and small waters, indicating that recent mild winters are encouraging some expansion.
VC 61 At least eight pairs bred in the Hull Valley recording area, three at Tophill Low NR, two at Welton, and single pairs at Wansford and Driffield, and Barmston Drain, and pairs were resident at Little Driffield and at Brandesburton. Many of the Holderness drains were not checked, but a pairs bred along Hornsea Rail Trail and Keyingham. Three pairs were proven in the Lower Derwent Valley, with four possibles and two probables, and pairs at Allerthorpe and Pocklington. Reported more widely in winter, with birds dispersing from August. One was trapped and ringed in Top Scrub at Filey on 28th October. Occasionally reported at East Park Lake, Hull.
VC 62 This species is doing well throughout the district. Three pairs were recorded in the Ryedale district, and other records this year came from Burniston Bay, Burton Riggs, Harwood Dale, Langdale, Peasholm Park, Ruston Carr, Scalby Beck, Seamer Road Mere, Skelton Castle, Star Carr and Wykeham Lakes.
VC 63 Recorded throughout the year at twenty two sites in the Halifax area with breeding taking place at Eastwood, Todmorden, Marley and Elland GP with food carrying at Doe Park Res. Two pairs bred at Cononley, two pairs at Swillington Ings, and one to two birds were present at Wintersett and may have bred. Up to two birds were regularly seen at Fairburn Ings RSPB with at least one pair breeding resulting in five birds noted on 5th September. At least one pair bred at Pugneys CP and one to two birds were noted outside the breeding season at Blackmoorfoot Res. At Old Moor Wetlands RSPB at least three territories were noted during the breeding season. An estimated total of eight young were noted from the first clutches, with at least one pair successfully breeding for a second time. The largest single count was ten on 13th July. 10-15 pairs are present in the Doncaster district, five pairs in the Sheffield area and other birds are no doubt present in the Barnsley area. A pair also bred successfully at Sprotborough Flash and a pair was present at Potteric Carr. No doubt under-recorded especially on stretches of river away from the main bird-watching sites.
VC 64 Birds were seen in urban and suburban areas such as Bingley, Keighley and Shipley. Bred at Addingham, Denton Hall, Ox Close, Ripon, where seen along the canal and river, Mickle Ings Beck, Thornton Underwood Lakes where food carrying and young were observed. Four young seen near Otley Wetland and four ringed at Maple Grange. Family parties were at Hebden Gill in late June and Linton Church in September. One frequently visited a garden in Sharow during October to December and a bird caught up in netting at Harrogate was released unharmed. No records from the Washburn Valley this year after five locations reported in 2004.
VC 65 Regularly seen on most river systems and water bodies especially at lower altitude. Sixteen were ringed in the Catterick area.

BELTED KINGFISHER *Ceryle alcyon* **A** 0,0,0,0,1
Vagrant; no previous records

A trans-Atlantic vagrant that breeds throughout N America south to Central and northern South America. There have been two previous British records, both from Cornwall, and three Irish records. It is thought these birds may arrive in autumn.
VC 61 A first-summer male, seen the previous day in Staffordshire, was re-located on 2nd April at 1000 hrs at Eastrington Ponds NR (C & N Smith). It remained for about an hour, but although its presence was quickly broadcast, it had gone before other observers could arrive to enjoy it, no doubt on its way to Peterculter in Aberdeen, where it was found on 4th. This bird may have arrived in Europe the previous autumn and was migrating north. A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding 14:2 pp 39-42.*

(EUROPEAN) **BEE-EATER** *Merops apiaster* **A** 3,16,2,2,2
Rare visitor from southern Europe; 88 previous records (134 birds)

This Mediterranean species breeds throughout southern Europe, and is now a regular over-shooting spring visitor to the county, with Spurn Point the premier location.
VC 61 Two records from Spurn: on 21st May, one flew west over the Warren and out over the Humber, where eventually it was lost to view (SDW *et al.*). Another flew south past the Warren at 15.00 hrs on 12th July (SDW).



Belted Kingfisher

HOOPOE *Upupa epops* **A** 2,2,7,4,2

Rare visitor from Europe, annual in recent years; 253 previous records

This species is widely distributed across central Eurasia, the Indian sub-continent, parts of South-east Asia and North Africa.

VC 61 One was seen and filmed in Flamborough village on 17th April (*per* IM) and one was in Old Fall from 16th to 19th May (GRB: PAL *et al.*).

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla* **A** 8,30,7,31,57

Red list and UK BAP species: scarce coastal passage migrant, rare inland.

Breeds across Eurasia, from Britain, where it has been extinct since 1993, to Japan. The European population mostly winters south of the Sahara, and migrating Scandinavian birds are reported regularly from the county. It was an excellent autumn for this species.

VC 61 The only spring record was an elusive bird found at Cliff Farm, Kilnsea on 1st May (DRM *et al.*). Autumn was better than recent years, with 53 records of at least 40 birds. One was at the Narrows at Spurn on 20th and 21st August, with one at Sammy's Point, Easington on 22nd. The next to arrive was at Spurn on 3rd September. The following day produced four new birds: one at Sammy's Point, and three at Spurn, with one staying until 7th, on which date another was at Sammy's Point. The 10th produced four birds at Spurn, one at Flamborough and one at Sammy's Point. Nine were found at Flamborough on 11th, four remaining to 12th and 11 were found in the Kilnsea/ Riverside/Easington area. The total of 15 seen at Spurn on 11th was only one short of the record set in 1977. Six remained there on 12th but all had disappeared by 13th. One flew low overhead past the observer at Priory Sidings, Hull on 12th Sept (EWC) and one was at Filey on the same date. One was found freshly dead at the Point at Spurn on 14th, one seen in Easington on 15th and one found in a private garden in Long Lane Woodmansey on 15-16th. In October one was on Long Lane, Filey on 5th and one at South Landing, Flamborough on 8th.

VC 62 One was seen at Hunt Cliff on 9th September (DAM) and another at Scalby Beck on 11th September (KW).

VC 63 One was perched on a fence post between the river and the canal upstream of Fish Ponds Lock near Skelton Lake for fifteen minutes on 31st August (BT). The fourth record for the BOG was a bird at Thornton Moor on 9th September. Found in foggy conditions feeding in dense heather but gave satisfactory views to a handful of observers.

GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis* A
Amber list: uncommon resident. BBS 14/166

A European species that is expanding northwards in Britain, and this is range consolidation is evident in North Yorkshire, where recorded in 10/92 BBS squares (*cf.* 1/48 in 1994).
VC 61 Breeds in valleys along the western Wolds escarpment such as at Kiplingcotes, and commonly on the sandy soils in the North Cliffe and Houghton areas and at Allerthorpe. Also reported at Hornsea Mere, where two seen on 16th February, North Ferriby from 28th February to 19th March, at Welton on 14th April and Tophill Low on 19th May.
VC 62 This year reports came from Forge Valley, Langdale, Mowthorpe, Wykeham Forest and Wykeham Lakes.
VC 63 Becoming more noticeable within the VC. Resident breeding bird with 72 records from 22 sites across the Halifax area. A pair was seen excavating a nest hole at Shibden Valley. Elsewhere six birds were thought to be on territory in the Wintersett area, up to four were regularly seen at Fairburn Ings RSPB throughout the year, with at least two pairs in the Swillington area. Two pairs held territory at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB where there was a peak count of six on 28th March and up to six were at Thorpe Marsh through the year. Breeding thought likely on Thorne Moors NNR. Immatures were seen at Doe Park and Paul Clough Res.
VC 64 Confirmed breeding at Ellington Banks and Bellflask Quarry with a late summer immatures at Buckden and Long Ashes. Widespread reports on high ground, moorland fringes and suitable woodland. One was on a telegraph pole at entrance to Harrogate Business Park on 12th June.
VC 65 Birds were present all year in woods north of West Tanfield, on higher ground up Colsterdale and in the Breary Bank and Catterick area.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major* A
Fairly common resident; scarce passage migrant in autumn. BBS 41/166

The population of the resident subspecies *anglicus* continues to increase, particularly in North Yorkshire. Nominate race birds from Scandinavia are occasional immigrants.
VC 61 Widespread in suitable woods and parks. Two pairs in East Park, Hull. October brought a flurry of birds seen coming in-off at Filey: one on 5th, two on 14th, singles on 19th and 28th, two on 30th and one on 31st. Two were at the Dams on 2nd November. Two at Flamborough on 15th October were thought to be of the nominate continental form whilst a total of 28 bird/days were logged during the autumn at Spurn.
VC 62 A widespread breeding bird in mature woodland. Potential migrants along the coast were singles at St Mary's Church Scarborough on 22nd September and 2nd November, one on Castle Hill on 5th October and one at South Gare on 17th October.
VC 63 Under-reported though widespread in many woods and parks throughout the region, albeit in small numbers.
VC 64 Bred throughout the area: Arden Park, Beecroft Moor plantation, Cottingley, Dob Park, Grass Wood, Kettlewell, Low Wood, Nell Bank, Nidd Gorge, Oxenhope, Shipley Glen, St Ives, Strid Wood, Studley Park, and Summerbridge with seven pairs in the Littlethorpe area. Two were reported drumming on metal and one on an electricity pylon, and one observed in a garden trying to predate Blue Tits in a nest box.
VC 65 Widespread in suitable habitat on lower ground and up the various dales. Bred at Nosterfield and above West Tanfield and 35 birds were ringed in the Catterick area.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos minor* A
Red list: scarce resident, rare in south-east

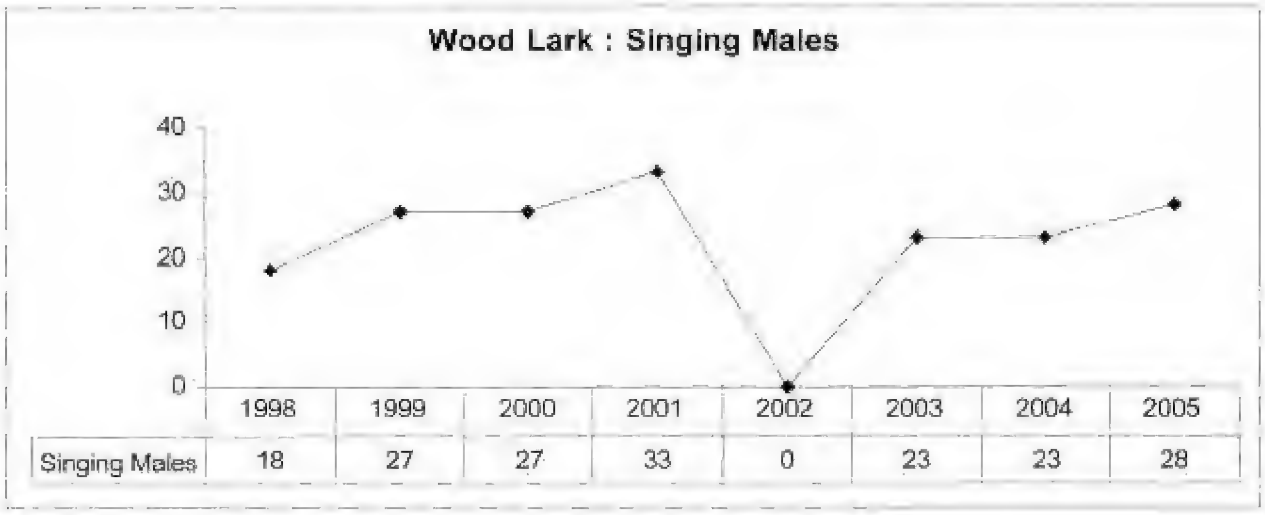
The national population is declining, although South Yorkshire is a relative stronghold.
VC 61 Very few reports from the east, although thought to be resident in the Wheldrake area. One was at Seaton on 29th January; one on a few dates in February at North Cave Wetlands and one again there in October; one at Hornsea Mere on 25th March, one Long Lane, Beverley on 17th May and one at Catfoss on 20th May. No evidence of breeding.
VC 62 Records in recent years suggesting a small, localised breeding population in the district. The only records were of one at Hutton on 31st January and 3rd February, and one in Forge Valley on 10th April.
VC 63 There are probably a few pairs nesting in the area, breeding was hard to prove. A male found drumming at Temple Newsam on 28th March was still present in the same area until late April. Singles were also recorded in the Swillington Ings area on 2nd January, 16th June, and 25th December, with two on 19th June. Wintersett Res had one on 23rd April, 10th July and 9th September, one was in a garden at Barkisland Hall on 24th and 25th July, and one was at Pugneys CP on 3rd September. Resident though infrequently seen around Sprotborough Flash with occasional single birds seen at other sites including at Hoyland and Worsbrough Res. A male at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB on four dates in November and December produced only the second site record. A pair raised at least one young at Potteric Carr and two occupied nest holes were found on Thorne Moors NNR. A male was at Cononley on 28th December.
VC 64 Bred at Leathley where an adult and two juveniles were recorded and a pair at Bellflask Quarry on 20th February subsequently bred. Single sightings included: Strid Wood on 1st February, Folly Hall Wood on 6th, a female at Shipley Glen on 8th, one calling at Netherside Hall on 12th; Grass Wood on 10th March; Dob Park on 8th April, Knotford Nook on 9th and 20th, a private wood on 10th, Barden on 19th, Healy on 21st May,

Stocksbridge NR on 5th June and two at Bishop Monkton on 11th. In the second half-year, singles were at Howstean on 12th July, Burley on 13th, Ellington Banks on 20th, Stocksbridge NR on 24th, Great Ouseburn on 18th August, Stocksbridge Res on 27th, Hay-a-Park on 16th September, Otley Wetland on 3rd October and Markington on 29th. A male was at Snaygill on 11th December.
VC 65 Very scarce: birds were at High Batts NR on 10th January and 28th March, Lingham Lake on 21st May and Marfield NR on 20th September.

WOOD LARK *Lullula arborea* A

Red list and UK BAP species: scarce breeding visitor and passage migrant

A partial migrant, a small UK population has prospered and expanded northwards and a minimum of 28 singing males was recorded in the county, with breeding proven at least one site. This total is probably an under-estimate, as some sites were not reported this year.



	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Singing Males	18	27	27	33	0	23	23	28

* No surveys in 2002 due to Foot and Mouth restrictions

VC 61 Just one singing bird was reported from 11th February from a site where previously two to three, but other areas not surveyed this year. One was singing at Skipwith Common however. It was a good spring for this species at Spurn with four records: one flew south on 31st March; another single flew south on 29th April; the third of the year flew south on 23rd May followed by another on 27th May. One was at Head Farm, Flamborough on 13th April, with others seen in October in-off on 11th, on 16th and 28th. A single flew over the Top Scrub at Filey on 15th October; one over Easington Churchyard on 19th and in November and one was in Easington on 8th and 11th.
VC 62 Two singing birds were present at Sand Hutton and one pair raised three young. Three singing birds were heard on Strensall Common.
VC 63 Twenty singing birds are estimated to be present in the Doncaster district, with birds reported from Bawtry Forest, Blackstone, Finningley, Hatfield and a pair was recorded on Thorne Moors NNR from 13th March until 20th May (*per* NPW). One flew south at Wilsic on 3rd October.

SKY LARK *Alauda arvensis* A

Red list and UK BAP species: common resident; passage migrant and winter visitor
BBS 115/166: 15% (-18) increase 1994-2005, -7% (0) decrease 2004-5

This Palearctic species is nationally decreasing and locally, although it has recovered from a low base in 1994, has declined for the last two years. The range appears to have contracted in North and South Yorkshire but is holding up in West and East Yorkshire.
VC 61 Twenty-one pairs bred at or near Tophill Low and 55 pairs along Hornsea Rail Trail. Winter counts included 70 at Foston, 45 at Atwick and 25 at Barmston in December and 60 at Brough Airfield in February. Seventy flew over Tophill on 24th October and 50 on 29th. Coastal movement in the early months was light: at Spurn between 30th January and 22nd June, 256 flew south, 33 came in and 14 flew north-west. Autumn flocks included 70 at Filey on 26th September, with 130 on 2nd October, 125 on 3rd and 200 on 14th, and at Flamborough, 140 on 1st October and 880 on 7th. At Spurn autumn passage saw 3574 fly south between 12th September and 11th December. The highest daily counts were: 242 on 7th, 240 on 9th, 745 on 20th, 363 on 26th October; 279 on 1st and 191 on 5th November. A late cold-weather movement saw 95 fly south on 29th December.
VC 62 Still a relatively common breeder in agricultural land and on moorland edges. The largest winter flocks were 130 at Marske Stray on 31st December and 60 at Scalby Manor on 25th November.
VC 63 Fifty territories were located at Swillington Ings, 58 were found at Wintersett and 100 singing birds were noted between Stoodly Pike and Warland Res on 11th May. Thirty-two were at Thornton Moor Res on 19th March with 43 on 11th April. At Warley Moor Res 30 were singing on 31st March, many being on territory. Twenty at Soil Hill on 13th April were considered to be on passage. Forty were at Fairburn Ings RSPB in April and in October there was a small movement of birds moving south with 120 on 14th, 86 on 15th and 75 on

16th. At Old Moor Wetlands RSPB, 25 pairs held territory where the highest count of the autumn was 165 noted moving south on 24th September. Twenty pairs bred at Blacktoft Sands, where a good south-westerly passage was noted in autumn, with notable counts of 60 on 28th September, 90 on 6th and 150 on 15th October. 214 flew south during heavy snow showers on the 28th December. Southfield Res had 163 moving west on 18th August. Beal Carrs had good numbers later in the year with *c.*115 on 24th November and *c.*50 still present on 31st December. Twelve pairs held territory at Potteric Carr.
VC 64 Thinly distributed with records mainly from the southern and eastern parts of the area. Singing and courtship display was noted as early as 6th February. Considered well-established on the east side of Wharfedale by 20th March. Twenty singing birds were at Haverah Park on 21st March. Southerly passage began with 10 at Farnham GP on 18th September, 30 at Staveley NR on 24th and 25th. Fifty were at Staveley NR on 9th October with the only winter flock of 50 at Melmerby on 10th December.
VC 65 Between 10 and 20 pairs breed on Nosterfield NR where it is present throughout the year. Southerly passage was noted at Nosterfield NR with 41 on 25th September and in October, 28 on 1st, 22 on 4th, 23 on 8th, 54 on 9th and 60 on 16th. Lingham had 20 on 15th October.

SHORE LARK *Eremophila alpestris* **A** 11,28,88,72,36
Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

The European race *flava* winters in fluctuating numbers on the British coasts, with some birds staying in Yorkshire and others moving north along the coast in spring.
VC 61 Three were found at Flamborough Head on 23rd March, two on 25th, with five at Old Fall on 1st April and six there on 10th and 11th, later seen on Beacon Hill. One at Spurn on 2nd May by the Tank Blocks, then south at the Narrows, but probably the same bird again on 3rd and 4th on Old Scrape. The first of the autumn were two north at Spurn on 4th October, with two at BPNR on 16th, then again at Spurn, three at Wire Dump on 18th, three south past the Narrows on 20th, five in off the sea on 28th, and three south on 29th. In November, two were in cliff-top set-aside at Ringborough farm on 14th and two came in/off and flew north on at Spurn on 17th. The last records were of on at Spurn on 7th December and two between East Newton and Ringborough cliff-top farm on 18th.
VC 62 Single birds were present at Cowbar between 25th March and 17th April.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia* **A**
Amber list: fairly common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 14/166

The population of this sub-Saharan migrant is stable or slightly increasing.
VC 61 First reported from North Cave Wetlands on 20th March. 450 were at Welton Water by 8th April, and 820 there on 25th July, with other high counts of 2000 at Hornsea Mere on 24th May, 300 at Tophill Low on 19th July, 820 at Paull Holme Strays on 25th July and 440 there on 17th August. Colonies were recorded at Allerthorpe Water Park (150 pairs), Keyingham (20-25 pairs), Watton NR (23 pairs), North Cave Wetlands, North Ferriby (76 pairs) and in cliffs at Atwick, Easington, Filey Bay, the outer head at Flamborough and Kilnsea (11 pairs but suffered from erosion). At Spurn between 23rd March and 8th June, just 407 passed south. The first brood probably started moving from mid-June and by the last one on 10th October, 2108 had passed south.
VC 62 Recorded from 2nd April to 21st September. Nested in the cliffs at Jackson's Bay where a flock of 120 were feeding on 13th July, Redcar (58 nest-holes) and Elton (37 nest-holes). The largest post-breeding flock was 250 at Coatham Marsh on 17th July.
VC 63 The first birds recorded for the year were two at Dewsbury SF, three at Pugneys CP and two at Fairburn Ings RSPB all on 17th March. Numbers continued to build up throughout April with 550 at Anglers CP on 9th. Breeding was reported at Pugneys CP and Calder Wetlands with a total of ninety pairs, and approximately fifty pairs were on territory at Woodlesford near Leeds. Present between the 20th March and 25th September at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB where two pairs nested and the highest count of the year was 170 on 28th March. First record at Blacktoft Sands was of two on 18th March, then present almost daily until early September. Peak autumn roost count was of 5000 on 1st August. The first at Beal Carrs was on 20th March and the last, a single, showed on 18th September. Some pairs excavated nest holes at Potteric Carr but there was no other evidence of breeding. In the autumn Fairburn Ings RSPB recorded regular counts between 15th and 28th August of 500 birds with the highest count being 600 at Wintersett Res on 23rd. One at Astley Lake Swillington Ings on 29th September was the last sighting of the year.
VC 64 First returning birds were eight at Nicholson's Lagoons on 17th March, one at Otley Wetland and Snaygill Ings on 18th when three at Farnham GP. Numbers increased to 20 at Ripon Racecourse on 25th with 40 at Knotford Nook and Barden Scale on 29th and 100 at Hay-a-Park from 26th to month end. In April, 400 were at Farnham GP on 4th, 200 at Ripon Racecourse on 6th, and 200 at Knotford Nook and Hay-a-Park on 9th with 300 at Otley Wetland on 6th May. Bred at Otley Wetlands where 15 nests and 266 young were ringed at the Ben Rhydding colony. The artificial wall at Staveley NR held 25 pairs and the Farnham GP wall 33 pairs. 455 were ringed at Hutton Conyers comprising 298 adults and 147 juveniles – a bird ringed on the 8th August 2004 was re-trapped 220 miles (350km) north in the Grampian region on 10th July. Small colonies were established along the upper Wharfe. Feeding concentrations of 400 were at Staveley NR on 29th July, 300 at Farnham NR on 24th August and Hay-a-Park on 5th September with 200 south there on 10th September with the last at Bellflask Quarry on 1st October.

VC 65 A single at Nosterfield NR was the VC first for the year, with four at Lingham Lake on 19th. Peak count at Nosterfield NR was 400, with the last three on 1st October at Flask's Lake. At a Quarry site in the Catterick area 364 birds were ringed.

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica* A

Amber list: common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant
BBS 132/166: 34% (26) increase 1994-2005, -23% (6) decrease 2004-5

The population each year is variable, perhaps depending on factors affecting wintering areas in South Africa and migration routes. After a good year in 2004, this year showed a decrease, noted particularly in West Yorkshire.

VC 61 First reported from North Cave Wetlands on 28th March, then Lockington on 1st April, and by 4th May, 140 were at Tophill Low. Spring passage was excellent at Spurn with 15,805 logged moving south between 1st April and 29th June. The breeding population at Flamborough was described as constant, with a maximum passage count of 1260 on 2nd September and the last on 12th November. Late summer counts included 375 at Paull Holme Strays on 15th August and 210 at South Cave on 3rd September. A total of 15,575 flew south at Spurn between 3rd July and 12th November. Peak passage occurred between early August and mid-September but only four counts over 1000 were logged, including 4016 on 7th September.

VC 62 Recorded from 1st April to 20th October, with 200 per hour south at South Gare on 1st May noteworthy.

VC 63 An early bird at Pugneys CP on the 18th March was the first for the year and one at Oxenhope on 19th. First recorded at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB on 20th March and a peak count there of 370 on 25th of September. At Southfield Res the first were two on 26th March and the last one on 10th October with a peak of 176 south on 25th. In April, 250 were at Elland GP. Blacktoft Sands RSPB had 250 on 16th May. Also in May, 102 were at Thornton Moor and 111 at Cold Edge Dams. Peak counts in the autumn included 200 at Wintersett on 16th August, 140 flew west on the 21st at Cold Edge Dams and in September: 1633 at Thornton Moor Res on 4th, 300 at Ogston Res on 7th, 300 at Ogden Water on 7th, 450 at Cold Edge Dams on 11th and 300 at Luddenden Dean on 18th. The last was at Old Moor Wetlands on 7th November.

VC 64 First returning bird was at Bellflask Quarry on 18th March. In April, 120 were at Otley Wetland. The only May count was 320 at Otley Wetland. Very much under-recorded as a breeding bird – breeding reports from the Harrogate area were from St Ives with 37 nests and from Knotford Nook were 119 young raised. Summer passage and feeding assemblies: 200 at Staveley NR on 13th August and 12th September, 200 at Farnham GP on 5th and 300 at Gouthwaite Res on 12th. Twelve records in October with the last at Bishop Monkton on 29th.

VC 65 Two were at both Nosterfield NR and Lingham Lake on 25th March. The highest count at Nosterfield NR was 200 on 25th September. The last were two at High Batts NR on 15th October.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbicum* A

Amber list: common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant
BBS 70/166: 122% (20) increase 1994-2005, 2% (3) increase 2004-5

After the big recovery in numbers in 2003, the population of this trans-Saharan migrant has remained constant, with proportionally more squares occupied this year in North and East Yorkshire.

VC 61 First reported from North Cave Wetlands on 4th April with the next on 8th at Tophill Low, but bulk of the population arrived late this year. Bred in most villages, with 100+ pairs in Hull. 1200 at Hornsea Mere on 24th May and 800 there on 1st June were the largest gatherings. Spring passage at Spurn was good, totalling 6320 birds moving south between 16th April and 30th June. Autumn passage was relatively poor, with a total of 6368 at Spurn between 1st July and 12th November, mostly between early September and early October with a peak count of 1931 on 7th September. At Flamborough, the peak count was 1800 on 2nd September. Late birds were seen at Easington on 12th and Scorborough village near Bridlington on 14th November.

VC 62 Recorded from 5th April to 2nd November. Passage included 222 south at Cowbar in 40 minutes on 28th May.

VC 63 Birds began to arrive in early April with one at Cononley on 2nd the first for the year, with an influx of 40 at Marley SW beginning of May and one at Fairburn Ings RSPB on 4th, with a count of 250 there on 24th May the biggest flock noted during the spring. Recorded between the 8th April and 28th September at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB where the highest count was 130 on 28th June. At Blacktoft Sands the first record was of two on 22nd April and the peak count for the year was 150 on 16th May. Breeding occurred throughout the VC but the only counts of nests received was from the Halifax area with 20 pairs at Wainstalls, 21 one at Stainland and six at Booth. During the autumn migration the highest numbers recorded in August were 160 at Aireside Cononley and 200 at Cononley, while in September, 150 were at Thornton Moor on 3rd and 26th, 300 were at Ogden Res on 7th when 150 at Luddenden Dean, 250 at Ringstone Edge Res on 8th with 390 heading south-west on 19th, and 300 at Swillington Ings on 10th. Last recorded at Thornton Moor Res on 10th and Blacktoft Sands on 23rd October.

VC 64 First returning birds in April were at Norwood Lane on 4th, Otley Wetland on 8th and Ripon on 9th. As usual, under-recorded as a breeding bird. A cold wet period in late June to early July resulted in well grown young and one female being found dead in the artificial nest cote at Sharow with no young being reared. Fifteen nests were at Timble library with others at Burley. Small flocks were noted in August with 200

at Staveley NR, 500 at Great Ouseburn on 23rd and 200 at Follifoot in late August and early September. In September, 200 were at Snaygill on 17thand one hundred were at Hay-a-Park on 3rd October.
VC 65 The first for the year was single bird at Lingham Lake on 7th April.

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW *Hirundo daurica* **A** 7,3,2,9,7
Rare passage migrant; 51 previous records (57 birds)

Breeds from NW Africa through the Mediterranean through to the Middle East, with other populations east through India to Japan. Over-shooting migrants thought to be returning from Africa occur from April and post-breeding dispersal can occur into late October.
VC 61 Six birds were seen at Spurn in spring; south on 27th April (PC:BRS:SDW), south 1st May (SDW *et al.*), south then later north on 2nd May (RJS), south on 20th May (PC: SDW), over the Canal Scrape car park on 22nd May (MD: SJ *et al.*) and south on 28th May (AAH: GCT).
VC 63 One was seen at Blacktoft Sands RSPB late afternoon to dusk on 4th May, hawking over the lagoons (MJP: RSe *et al.)*

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus novaeseelandiae* **A** 24,12,12,10,28
Scarce coastal passage migrant in autumn, rare in spring and inland

The migratory *richardi* form of this species breeds in central and eastern Asia, but regularly arrives as a migrant on the east coast from mid-September on route to uncertain wintering grounds.
VC 61 The autumn's first was at Sammy's Point, Easington on 16th September, followed by one south at the Narrows, Spurn on 19th, possibly the same bird. In October, one was seen at Atwick on 4th (WFC), one in Clubley's Field at Spurn on 5th, four at Flamborough on 7th, one at Easington gas terminal on 9th, one south at the Narrows, Spurn on 11th, one in Kilnsea and later at Sammy's Point on 14th, two at Flamborough on 15th (Northcliffe and Old Hall), two at Spurn on 15th and 16th (Canal Zone and the Point), one at Head Farm, Flamborough on 17th and one at South Landing, Flamborough on 18th, one south over the Triangle, Spurn on 29th and finally one in cliff-top fields at Holmpton on 30th (JC: CCR: TR). In November, two birds were located at Holmpton on 1st, and one flew south and later north at the Narrows, Spurn on 9th.
VC 62 One flew south calling over Long Nab on 10th October and was located later by Cromer Pond. It flew south and probably landed near Scalby Lodge Pond (NWA). What was presumably the same bird was again at Cromer Pond the next morning (KW). Also in October, one was at Boulby on 12th (JR: RCT), two at Hunt Cliff on 13th (DAM) one at Hawsker Bottoms on 19th (RSS) and finally one at Boulby on 27th (MAB).

OLIVE-BACKED PIPIT *Anthus hodgsoni* **A** 0,0,2,2,1
Rare coastal passage migrant; 21 previous records

European range restricted to North Urals, although widespread from Central Siberia east to Japan, wintering in southern China and in SE Asia.
VC 61 One was seen at Flamborough Head on 16th October (PAL: IM).

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis* **A**
Amber list: uncommon breeding summer visitor to north and west. BBS 6/166

A nationally declining migrant from south of the Sahara that breeds throughout most of the Palearctic including arctic Scandinavia, but rarely in Ireland. Surprisingly few are reported on migration.
VC 61 Another abysmal spring for this species. The first flew south at Spurn on 21st April then two seen on 30th had increased to four the next day. The only other records were of singles flying south on 23rd and 24th May. The autumn bird/day total at Spurn was 119, with a record 70 grounded on 10th September. A continuing decline in passage birds was again noted at Flamborough, where only 11 birds were reported between 24th April and 22nd September. Filey had only two autumn records. Two late birds were at Sammy's Point, Easington on 15th October. No reports were received from Skipwith Common, where formerly bred.
VC 62 The first was one at Trough Gully, Scalby Lodge on 12th April, followed by two singing birds at Raincliffe Woods on 24th April. Single migrants were at South Gare on 1st and Coatham Marsh on 13th May. It is thinly distributed as a breeding bird in the forests throughout the summer. 46 territories were counted in Cropton Forest. No coastal autumn migrants were reported this year.
VC 63 Continues to decline in numbers throughout the VC, with breeding only proven on Thorne Moors NNR, where birds recorded from 16th April until 26th June, and a nest was found on 14th June. The Halifax area only received 12 records including two at Black Dean on 1st May, one at Walshaw Dean on 5th and one singing at Hardcastle Crags. Elsewhere, singles flew over Swillington Ings on 12th August, south over Old Moor Wetlands RSPB on 20th August, over Blackmoorfoot Res on 2nd September and over South Cold Edge Halifax on 25th September. At Beal Carrs one spent a short time perched on electricity wires on 30th August.
VC 64 Returning birds were at Bastow and Grass Wood on 22nd April, Timble Ings on 23rd and Staveley NR on 25th. In the breeding season, bred at Long Ashes, five singing birds at Timble Ings and reported from Bastow (three territories), Ellington Banks, Guisecliffe, Hanging Wood, Lower Grass Wood (two territories), Strid Wood and Summerbridge. Birds flew south at Staveley NR on 10th August, Snaygill Ings on 21st and Hay-a-Park on 27th. Only 16 birds were noted between end of August and 25th September.

VC 65 Breeds in small numbers in Colsterdale. A single passage bird flew over Nosterfield NR on 1st May with one south over Lingham Lake on 27th August.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis* A

Amber list: common resident breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor
BBS 79/166: -41% (-13) decrease 1994-2005, -13% (-2) decrease 2004-5

The population continues to decrease. Appears to be more thinly distributed across its range in North and South Yorkshire but holding up in West and East Yorkshire.
VC 61 Breeds in the east along drain-sides and river banks, and on pastures such as at Watton Carrs, Figham and Swinemoor, and also on permanent pastures and valley sides throughout the Wolds north to coastal cliff-tops. At Filey, in spring and autumn, often found in sizeable flocks anywhere from Carr Naze northwards: 120 at Newbiggin on 2nd March, 80 on 9th September, 200 on 12th, 120 on 27th, 80 heading south on 14th October and 40 around Carr Naze and the Rocket Pole Field on 23rd being fairly typical counts. Passage at Flamborough, where there is a healthy breeding population, started with 46 on 28th March and up to 70 in April. Return movements in September included 245 on 12th and 890 on 18th, with 220 on 16th October. At Spurn, just one pair less than last year, with 20 singing males. Between 10th March and 26th May, 853 moved south, 455 flew north-west and 29 came in. 26,000 passed south in autumn, with peak passage occurring between early September and early October and high counts of 3050 on 22nd, 3378 on 26th, 2827 on 28th September and 2147 on 1st October.
VC 62 A common breeding bird on the moorlands and coastal cliffs, less abundant in other habitats. Only small numbers were reported in the winter months. A survey of Fylingdale Mooor in the breeding season found it to be the commonest bird with 211 counted. The peak count was of 1670 south in just one hour at Long Nab, Burniston on 22nd September.
VC 63 Some wintered on Soil Hill. Passage birds were noted at Thornton Moor Res with 1900 on 11th April and a total for the spring there of 3800. Birds began returning in July at this site; however most were noted in September and October with 1078 on 21st September, 1882 on 2nd October and 1578 on 9th. In the spring 311 flew north over Cold Edge Dams on 25th March followed by 186 north-west on 10th April, while 200 were counted at Stoodley Pike, Halifax. Breeding occurred throughout the Halifax area in quite large numbers especially on the moorland habitats, while smaller numbers usually up to 20 birds occurred at most lowland sites throughout the year. At Old Moor Wetlands RSPB 32 pairs held territory and the highest count was 140 on 26th September. Autumn migration started in the Halifax area on 21st August with small flocks moving over the higher ground. At Cold Edge Dams in September 352 flew south-east on 11th, 156 west on 18th and 487 on 25th, while in October 815 on 2nd and 805 on 9th were the largest movements. During the month of September 1541 were counted passing over Ringstone Edge Res. On 21st September, 661 were counted at Denholme Clough and 3000 passed through Rod Moor heading south-west on 28th September.
VC 64 Birds were back on the high ground by the end of March. Overall passage was 22,600 from all sites in the BOG area (including some VC 63 sites). Smaller counts of up to 60 birds came from other sites throughout the area in September and October with records from Carlton Ings, Follifoot Ridge and Langcliffe Pot in November, Lea Green and Snaygill Ings in December. Very few records were received from the moorland areas during the breeding season so no indication of breeding activity.
VC 65 Widespread and breeds in good numbers on suitable high ground sites. Spring movements included 166 north-west over Lingham Lake on 25th March and 40 over Nosterfield NR on 26th March, 58 on 2nd April and 50 on 10th. Autumn passage was evident at Nosterfield NR with birds going south on many dates in September and October. Maxima were 420 on 24th September, 332 on 25th and 116 on 9th October.

RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus* A 1,1,0,1,2

Rare coastal passage migrant; 28 previous records

Breeds in the arctic zone from north Norway east to Alaska and winters from Africa to south-east Asia and South China.
VC 61 One was seen at Sammy's Point, Kilnsea on 10th September (AJS: MGS) and one flew up from the Church Field, Kilnsea on 11th (JMB).

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus* A

Fairly common coastal resident and passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce inland

Resident around rocky coastlines of Britain, Ireland and northern France.
VC 61 At Filey, 17 were seen on 26th February, 10 on 14th October and nine on the Brigg on 22nd. Breeding status at Flamborough is unchanged. Up to 11 recorded in the early part of the year, with autumn migrants swelling numbers to 28 on 21st October and up to 20 noted in December. Southerly passage at Spurn totalled 18 birds between 16th February and 22nd April with no more than four being logged in a day. In autumn, an incredible total of 728 flew south between 12th September and 30th November with peak passage occurring between early October and early November, and a new day record of 135 was established on 20th October. A few singles were seen at Spurn during December with four on 11th, and other birds were found wintering at Patrington Haven and Paull Holme Strays, where the highest count was six on 18th November. One was at Hornsea Mere on 10th October. Birds of the Scandinavian form *A. p. littoralis* were identified at Filey between

3rd and 19th March, with two present on 13th; at Flamborough on 12th and 14th April with three present on the latter date, at Spurn where in March, several seen on 12th, two on 21st followed by a single on 31st and in March at Albert Dock, Hull on 13th, Hornsea Mere on 11th and 17th and Atwick on 25th.
VC 62 A winter visitor and passage bird in the Scarborough area, with one pair breeding on Castle Cliffs. Scandinavian race birds *A. p. littoralis* were present in March near Scalby Lodge Pond on 10th and 22nd, one in Scalby Beck on 21st, and three at Skinningrove on 26th.
VC 63 One at Beal Carrs intermittently between 9th January and 22nd March, one at Blacktoft Sands on 3rd March and Anglers CP had the only other spring record with one on 16th March. In autumn one at Blacktoft on 28th September, then four records in October; five on 4th, three on 6th, four on 15th and two on 17th. Anglers CP recorded further singles in the autumn on 8th, 16th and 29th October. A single bird was at Durkar Flatts from 4th to 8th October. Only recorded in October at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB with one on 7th, two on 8th and one on 12th. Elsewhere singles recorded at Wilsic and Southfield and Redmires Reservoirs between 16th September and 3rd October. Finally, singles at Beal Carrs on 9th and 30th November and 27th December.
VC 64 One was at Gouthwaite Res on 2nd April.
VC 65 Most records refer the race *A. p. littoralis* and are as follows: three at Lingham Lake on 9th April, with 13 the next day and at close by Nosterfield NR two were present on the 10th April of which at least one was *littoralis*.

WATER PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta* A 16,16,24,36,28

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant from Europe

This species breeds in the mountains of southern Europe, dispersing northwards to winter.
VC 61 Singles were seen at North Duffield Carrs on 28th February, at Spurn on 12th March, at Filey on 30th April, flying south and briefly alighting at the Narrows, Spurn on 20th October, at Paull Holme Strays on 9th November and at Sammy's Point, Easington on 22nd November.
VC 63 Up to two were noted at Fairburn Ings RSPB on various dates between 1st January and 12th April, and two wintering birds were also reported from Dewsbury SF. At Blacktoft Sands RSPB up to three were regularly seen in January, February and March until the last three on 24th March with a peak of seven on 14th. In March a single was recorded at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB on 5th and 7th. At Durkar Flatts singles were seen in the spring on 3rd and 24th April. The first bird returned to Blacktoft on 14th October with monthly peaks of four on 26th October, four on 14th November and two on 7th November. In November, two were seen at Durkar Flatts on 4th and 6th, two at Fairburn Ings on 12th followed by singles on 15th and 6th December, and singles were at Marley SW on 17th, 20th and 25th November.
VC 64 A single was at Snaygill SW on 1st December.
VC 65 One was at Flask's Lake on 26th February, two were at Lingham Lake on the 9th April and three on the 10th, amongst 13 Rock Pipits (RTP: SPW *et al.*).

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava* A

Amber list: uncommon and decreasing breeding summer visitor/passage migrant. BBS 15/166

The British race *flavissima* winters in West Africa and is decreasing, probably due to changes in agricultural practices. A contraction in range was again noted this year, found in only 2/92 squares in North Yorkshire. The widespread decline in the YDNP in the decade 1990-2000 (Court *et al.*, 2000), has been reversed in the core areas, however, due to careful management of late-cutting of meadows.
VC 61 Breeding noted at Tophill Low (15 pairs), Watton, Sunk Island, along the Hornsea Rail Trail (3 pairs) and in the Derwent Valley, but scarce elsewhere - PHENR only had one spring record! The first at Filey and Flamborough were on 17th April, but peak counts at Flamborough were in September with 24 on 2nd the highest. Last reported at both sites on 24th September. Between 7th April and 3rd June at Spurn, 422 *'flavas'* flew south, with the highest count of 65 on 2nd May, making it the best spring for passage since 2000. Just 249 *'flavas'* were recorded flying south between 1st July and 1st October. Birds showing characters of Blue-headed Wagtail *M. f. flava* were seen Watton NR on 10th to 11th May and at Sammy's Point, Easington on 21st April, 10th and 21st May with a grey and white bird, possibly an eastern form of Yellow Wagtail, seen there on 6th and 7th October.
VC 62 Recorded from 11th April to 22nd September. Nine breeding pairs were reported: at Cromer Point, Star Carr (five+ pairs), Charm Park, Low Marishes (two pairs). Birds showing characters of Blue-headed Wagtail *M. f. flava* were a female at Scalby Lodge on 28th April, followed by a male at Cromer Pond on 26th June.
VC 63 Continues to decline in the north and west both as a migrant and as a breeding species, although still relatively common in the east of the area around the Humber. The first was recorded at Southfield Res on 4th April, although the main arrival in the VC was on 16th. Forty-five at Southfield on 23rd August was a good count. First recorded on 7th April at Blacktoft Sands RSPB where three pairs bred on or adjacent to reserve. Good numbers were roosting in the reed bed during the autumn with highest counts of 35 on 9th August, 200 on 5th September and 68 on 8th September. At Old Moor Wetlands RSPB, one pair held territory and there was a maximum count of 36 on 21st August. At Beal Carrs two pairs bred successfully and at Potteric Carr a pair raised at least two young. Three pairs are thought to have bred in the Wintersett area, one to two pairs at Pugneys CP and only two pairs at Swillington Ings, down from sixteen pairs the previous year. Small numbers were present throughout the summer at Fairburn Ings RSPB but no breeding details were received.

Small numbers mainly single birds flew south over the area from July until the final sighting at Shibden Halifax and Thornton Moor Res on 25th September. A male showing the full characters of Blue-headed Wagtail *M. f. flava* was at Calder Wetlands on 10th May.
VC 64 In the last 10 years the species has declined from being a relatively common to extremely scarce in the BOG area and not common elsewhere, although populations in the core areas of YDNP, such as Littondale, increased as a result of management of ESA eligible areas and liaison with farmers. First at Ripon Parks on 16th April with two at Farnham GP on 24th and a single at Otley Wetland on 1st May. Bred in Littondale, where five confirmed pairs with a maximum of 11 males and six females; Malham Moor, two confirmed pairs with max of eight males and six females; Wharfedale, two confirmed pairs with maxima of three males and three females. Also seen at Goldsborough and possibly Ripon Parks. Other sightings: a single at Snaygill Ings on 7th July, seven at Skirfare Bridge on 17th and Skelton-on-Ure on 25th; 15, mostly juveniles, at Staveley NR on 5th August, one at Hay-a-Park on 21st, three at Great Ouseburn on 22nd, nine at Farnham GP on 28th and two at Thornton Moor Res on 29th and 4th September. In September, four at Ripon Racecourse on 20th with a late bird at Staveley NR on 2nd October.
VC 65 The only records were from the Nosterfield area. The first was on the reserve on 17th April, then one to three birds up to 21st June, with a similar pattern at both Flask's and Lingham Lakes. The maximum was ten at Lingham Lake on 23rd April. A pair fledged two young at Nosterfield NR, with a breeding pair at Lingham and a single at Flask's Lakes.

GREY-HEADED WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava thunbergi* 1,5,2,1,3
Rare migrant

Breeds in central and northern Scandinavia west to northern Siberia.
VC 61 A probable male flew south at Spurn on 23rd May (AAH), a male at Old Fall on 7th May (AMA) and a male was on the Golf Course at Flamborough on 11th September (RB).

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea* A
Amber list: uncommon resident in north and west; scarce passage migrant. BBS 12/166

Favours fast-flowing watercourses, and appears to be increasing in the north-west, but there are also more reports from lowland areas where it occasionally breeds. Breeding in the mountains of the Palearctic, continental birds migrate south and may account for some of our coastal records.
VC 61 One to two pairs bred at Hempholme Lock, Tophill Low, and two juveniles were seen at Welton on 26th July, with single birds on a number of dates between August and year-end: probably breeds along the stream in the village. Present at Tophill all year, with others recorded at Stoneferry Hull in January and February, Hornsea Mere in March and August, at PHENR occasionally between July and November and Melton on 5th October. Recorded at Filey to 31st March, on 10th July and from 31st August. There were 61 records from Flamborough, with three on 17th September. At Spurn between 16th February and 29th May, 19 birds flew south and two north, with singles on 16th June and on five dates in July, followed by autumn passage of a total of 130 south between 30th August and 16th November including 23 on 12th September.
VC 62 A widespread breeding bird in small numbers. One pair nested at Scalby Beck, with other pairs at Hutton and Saltburn. Autumn passage at Long Nab was evident from 5th September to late October, six flew south on 19th September.
VC 63 Reports were received from 33 sites in the Halifax area with breeding proven at Luddenden Dean, Baliffe Bridge, Hebden Bridge and Ogden, and no doubt bred at other sites where birds were present during the summer months. In the BOG area, bred at Cononley (two broods) and at two nearby sites, Cottingley, Leeshaw, Hebden and Lower Laithe Res. Two pairs bred at Swillington Ings, with up to six birds noted from January to March and October to December. One or two pairs bred at Pugneys CP, one pair bred at Blackmoorfoot Res and birds were present all year at Wintersett but no proof of breeding was obtained, with six birds there on 26th September. Regularly reported at Southfield Res in spring and autumn, with a juvenile seen on 27th June. Seen intermittently at Beal Carrs with two on 11th April. Old Moor Wetlands RSPB had 12 on 12th October and in May two territories were noted, with at least one pair breeding, successfully fledging two young. Ten were at Denholme Clough on 13th August.
VC 64 Bred at Appletreewick, Barden, Bingley, Kilnsey, Linton Falls, Lob Wood, Maple Grange, Water's Laithe and West End. A pair nested in a plant pot at Knaresborough well away from water. Five were at Thruscross Res on 20th July, one or two birds at Hay-a-Park from 30th July to the year end with four on 27th August and four at Low Grass Wood on 5th September. A visitor to urban gardens in Harrogate and Knaresborough in the latter part of the year.
VC 65 Present on suitable river systems. Bred in the Catterick area with six young ringed.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba yarrellii* A
Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor
BBS 93/166: 10% (24) increase 1994-2005, -11% (5) decrease 2004-5

Although a decrease in BBS was noted this year, the general trend has been upwards, with an increase noted in North Yorkshire in particular. The British race *M. a. yarrellii* is mostly resident, but some move south.
VC 61 Counts of up to 40 were noted at Routh Pits on 27th February and at Filey in March, August and

September. 67 were counted at Flamborough Head on 16th July. Between 13th March and 26th May, a total of 206 '*albas*' flew south at Spurn, and a further 357 between 1st July and 17th November. Counts elsewhere included 50 at Easington on 11th and 12th November.
VC 62 An abundant breeding bird. Good numbers were roosting in Northway in Scarborough at the start of the year, 280 on 14th March being the peak. At Hummersea, 47 flew west in an hour on 18th March. At least four pairs bred at Spurn.
VC 63 Small numbers were noted at most sites across the area with breeding occurring at most of them. Forty roosted at Marley SW at the beginning of the year, while in the BOG area, 48 roosted at Cononley on 9th February, with maximum of 51 at Thornton Moor Res, 27 at Cold Edge Dams and 38 at Denholme Clough in the autumn and 30 at Marley SW to year end. Fifty were noted at Swillington Ings in both January and December with 120 located in a field by the Biffa Tip near Skelton Lake. Thirty were at Blackmoorfoot Res on 5th February and Pugneys CP on 31st March. In the autumn 20 flew over Fly Flatts on 20th September, while in October 27 flew over Cold Edge Dams on 9th, 35 flew over Ringstone Edge Res also on 9th and 35 were also noted at Saville Park, Halifax on 10th. In November sixty were found roosting in Halifax town centre.
VC 64 At Ilkley, 120 roosted on 5th January, 55 at Snaygill Ings on 13th, 50 at Morrison's supermarket, Harrogate on 22nd, 114 at Snaygill Ings on 18th March, 40 at Follifoot Stables on 25th and 18 at Farnham GP in April. Twenty-two were at Gouthwaite Res on 25th July, 162 at Snaygill SW on 3rd August, 37 at Arncliffe on13th, 30 at Staveley NR on 19th with 25 at Great Ouseburn on 22nd. In September, 60 were at Farnham GP, 55 at Ripon Racecourse in October and 60 in Halifax Town Centre on 30th November with 50 at Morrison's on 14th December.
VC 65 Maximum count in spring was 14 at Nosterfield NR on 6th March. In autumn, counts of 20 were regular at Nosterfield NR in August and September.

WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba alba* A
Passage migrant

Breeds in Iceland and northern Europe and winters in Africa.
VC 61 Singles were recorded at Spurn 17th–18th March and at Filey on 22nd March and 3rd- 4th and 9th April, with three at Atwick on 25th March, and singles at Spurn again on 7th, 12th, 16th, 21st and 25th April. Singles were at North Cave Wetlands on 7th April, Hornsea Mere on 10th and 16th April, 1st, 3rd and 7th May and 15th June; two were at BPNR on 11th April, and up to two seen there through to mid- May; singles at Paull Holme Strays on 11th and 22nd April and three at Tophill Low on 16th April, with one on 30th. Ten were noted at Flamborough in spring between 19th April and 8th May, with just one in autumn on 22nd October. In the autumn at Spurn, singles were seen on 5th and 10th September.
VC 62 Seen in the Scarborough area from 18th March until 25th May.
VC 63 It was a good year for records of birds of the nominate race including 37 at Pugneys CP between 5th April and 2nd May with the largest flock being ten on 13th April. Birds were noted at Swillington Ings from 11th April to 8th May with a peak of 21 on 16th April. Five were at Wintersett on 14th with 13 on 16th April, one was at Ringstone Edge Res on 5th, two on 14th April and one at Whiteholme on 14th May. Singles were at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB on 18th and 20th of April, at Beal Carrs on 13th April and at Potteric Carr on 10th May.
VC 64 One was at Hellifield Flash on 20th and 21st April and other singles at Ripon Racecourse on 20th September and 15th October.
VC 65 Two were at Lingham Lake on 10th May, ten on 16th May with seven the next day, six on 22nd dropping to four on 23rd, with two on 1st May and a single on 16th. Nosterfield NR had one from 8th to 10th April and two on 16th. Autumn records were at Nosterfield NR with a single on 20th August, two on 28th and one on 15th October and Lingham Lake had a single on 1st October.

WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus* A
Irruptive late autumn and winter visitor, usually uncommon

Breeds from northern Scandinavia eastwards through the coniferous zone, including North America. Large numbers of this unpredictable visitor remained from late 2004.
VC 61 Over 310 birds were recorded, 150 in the first winter period. Higher counts included up to 41 in Hull in early January and 19 in Hessle later in the month. In February, 14 were in Swanland on 6th, 22 in Beverley on 11th March, seven at Wheldrake on 19th March, eight in Goole on 23rd and 15 at Filey on 28th April, and seven in Pocklington on 1st May. The first of the autumn were singles in October at Spurn on 15th and 24th and Flamborough on 19th and 28th. An influx from 13th to 28th November included 15 at Spurn, 15 at Aldbrough and 13 at Grimston on 18th, 14 at Ruston Parva on 22nd, 25at Sainsbury's, Hessle from 26th, 30 in Bridlington on 27th and 10 at North Cave Wetlands on 30th. Smaller numbers continued to be widely reported in December, with eight south at Spurn on 1st.
VC 62 A few birds were still around in the first few months from 2004, with 20 flying over Scalby on 1st January and 40 roosted in the plantation behind Little Alms Cliff, York on 3rd. At Urlay Nook, 37 were present on 3rd, 72 were at Hemlington on 6th and 20 at Guisborough on 9th. 100+ were present in York on 9th April and 50 still there on 22nd. 37 were seen in Scarborough from the 23rd to 25th. The last stragglers were 30 in York on 5th and 12 feeding in a garden in Scarborough on 12th May. Just a handful was seen in the Scarborough area in the second winter period. The first bird was located on the 12th November. Two flew over Coatham Marsh and a single was at Skelton Castle on 18th. Seventeen were in Pickering on 20th

November. In December seven were at Cayton Bay on the 8th and the same number was at Seamer Road Mere on the 20th, with 50 meanwhile in Middlesbrough on 19th.
VC 63 north Birds were present in the Halifax area from 1st January to 6th May and from 5th to 18th December. The biggest flocks were in January with 165 Winding Road on 2nd, 300 on 13th and 400 on 15th at Lane Head, Brighouse, 250 at Crossley Gardens on 9th, 150 flew north at Moor End Road, Pellon on 8th and 80 at Langdale street, Elland on 14th. The last were 18 at Shroggs Park on 6th May. At Blackmoorfoot Res 30 flew south on 6th January. Four small flocks were seen at Fairburn Ings RSPB during January with 20 flying south on 16th February. Parties of five were observed at Wintersett on 18th January, followed by ten on 27th February, 14 on 25th March, 68 on 28th and 29th March, 57 on 2nd April and 24 on 12th. The Wakefield area hosted 40 on Denby Dale Road on 7th March and 28 were seen regularly in Sainsbury's car park. Twenty were at Queensbury on 29th March. At Swillington Ings eight were noted on 1st April, 23 on 2nd increasing to 71 on 8th with 16 on 25th. In the second half of the year singles were noted at Fairburn Ings RSPB on 17th December with one at Swillington Ings on 23rd November and two on 28th. In the Halifax area two were at Crossley gardens on 5th and 6th December, four were at Burdock Walk on 14th, with three at Horne Street on 18th. **VC 63 south** Many reports of birds seen around the south of the VC between 1st January and 30th April. Largest counts were in the Sheffield Area with as many as 400 reported on 7th January. Birds lingered throughout the early months with other notable counts being 80 at Manvers Lake on 19th February, 70 in central Barnsley on 3rd March and 150 in Armthorpe on 12th and 21st April. The last spring report was on 30th April when 30 were in trees at the Meadowhall Shopping Centre, Sheffield (a frequent haunt) but they were frightened by a passing lorry with flashing beacons and flew off towards Sheffield City centre. In the later part of the year one was at Firbeck on 17th November. Sheffield produced the bulk of reports from various parts of the City with counts often being around 20-25 and higher figures of 75-80 noted on 18th and 20th December. Elsewhere, 30 were at Corton Wood on 9th December and the last reported was one at Armthorpe on 23rd December.
VC 64 In January, 30 were at Starbeck and 25 at Harrogate on 1st, 37 at Jennyfields/Killinghall Moor area on 2nd, 40 at Little Almscliffe on 3rd, 20 at Otley on 4th, 50 at Hay-a-Park on 7th, 250 in Halifax on 9th when 40 at Snaygill, 400 at Brighouse on 15th, 20 at Knaresborough on 17th, with smaller numbers scattered around the area. There were fewer records in February, with 40 at Jennyfields/Killinghall Moor area and 26 at Otley on 29th the only notable counts. Returning birds in March with 25 at Bradford College and 20 at Crossflatts, 20 at Starbeck on 4th April, 33 at Jennyfields/Killinghall Moor on 7th, and 30 at Gilstead and 50 at Baildon during the month. Late reports of 22 in Harrogate from 4th to 7th May and one at Ripon on 13th. Few end of year reports with one at Ilkley on 20th November, 12 at Snaygill SW on 27th, Ilkley on 1st December, one at Kildwick on 9th December with two on 10th and 4 at Crossflatts and 30 at Burley-in-Wharfedale on 21st.
VC 65 Surprisingly only a single bird reported, at Nosterfield NR on 9th January.

DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus* **A**
Uncommon resident on higher ground in north and west. BBS 6/166

Nationally stable population of the race *gularis*, noted in West Yorkshire in BBS survey for first time this year.

Dipper Photo: Dave Mansell

VC 61 A juvenile/first-winter was at Kings Mill, Driffield from 8th to 15th August.
VC 62 Resident on a number of stretches of river around the edges of the North York Moors. Some of the more fruitful and accessible sites at which pairs were again seen this year were the bridges over the River Derwent at Wrench Green and Hilla Green Farm, at Saltburn Woods and at Lowdales Beck in Hackness village.
VC 63 With the exception of a single bird at Blackmoorfoot Res on 22nd May all sightings came from the Halifax area although no reports were received from the Huddersfield recording area. Four to five pairs were at Luddenden Dean with one pair observed feeding two juveniles on 28th May. Another pair was seen feeding a juvenile at Hardcastle Crags on 6th June with other pairs present at Elland GP and Gorpley Clough although there was no evidence of breeding. Birds seen in more unusual locations include singles at Whiteholme Dean on 1st January and 12th November, Lighthazzles on 16th November, Ogden on 18th November and 7th December and one at Jay House Lane on 27th November. Reported to be present as usual in the Sheffield area.
VC 64 Reported in the breeding season from rivers and their tributaries on the high ground in the dales as far down the valley as Ripon, the Nidd Gorge and Goldsborough Weir. At least 18 birds were seen on the River Wharfe between Howgill and Knotford Nook. Four to five pairs were seen at Luddenden Dean, where two pairs raised three young. No reports received from the Washburn Valley, but seen on the River Aire at Esholt and Myrtle Park, Bingley and Cononley. Nested at Barden Bridge, Menston and possibly Goit Stock Reservoir and Hirst Wood. Also bred at Ellar Ghyll, Middleton Woods and Strid Wood.
VC 65 Resident on river systems from the high moors to lowland areas throughout the year. Fifteen *pulli* were ringed in the Catterick area.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes* **A**
Abundant resident; passage migrant in small numbers
BBS 146/166: 35% (9) increase 1994-2005, -9% (9) decrease 2004-5

A succession of mild winters has led to a long-term increase, particularly in the north, but it has been declining slightly in Yorkshire since 2000. Counts show this species to be more than twice as numerous as Hedge Accentor *Prunella modularis*, and almost as numerous as European Robin *Erithacus rubecula* in North and West Yorkshire but the differential is less in the east.
VC 61 Tophill Low's BBS found 75 - 77 breeding pairs, (up from 40 pairs in 2004), 18 singing males were noted at Spurn, a slight decrease and 55 pairs were found along the Hornsea Rail Trail. There was some passage in October at Filey, with 15 logged on 16th.
VC 62 A very common breeding bird throughout the region. In spring, 60 were at South Gare on 28th March. The only indication of autumn immigration from the continent was a slight influx along the coast in October, with 26+ at Long Nab on the 26th.
VC 63 Twenty-eight pairs were noted at Blacktoft Sands RSPB and the highest count logged at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB was 60 on 4th October with 55 males holding territory. On Thorne Moors NNR there were 45+ birds on 2nd May and 33 on 26th June, 29 of these latter being in song. Bred at 15 sites in the Cononley area with a minimum of 17 broods fledged.
VC 64 Recorded in every month with up to six seen on a number of occasions but the only counts were of 12 at Farnhill Moor on 7th October and 10 at Timble Ings in mid-November.
VC 65 A common bird though few records received. Breeding confirmed at High Batts NR.

DUNNOCK (HEDGE ACCENTOR) *Prunella modularis* **A**
Amber list: abundant resident; passage migrant
BBS 117/166: -1% (15) decrease 1994-2005, -5% (6) decrease 2004-5

The very sedentary British race *occidentalis* has shown a slight decline in the county since 2000: this year a decrease was only noted in West Yorkshire. Found most widely in the Humberside area, in 31/32 squares.
VC 61 Tophill Low's BBS found eight pairs, down on last year's 15, but thought to be under-recorded; 24 singing males were noted at Spurn, a slight decrease, but many double broods and 34 pairs were surveyed along the Hornsea Rail Trail. In the spring, a fall of nominate continental birds occurred at Spurn on 27th March, when 61 were counted, with 145 present the following day. Autumn influxes included 57 on 20th September and 65 on 4th October. There was also some visible migration over the Narrows when 114 flew south between 6th September and 31st October. Nine came in off the sea on 4th October.
VC 62 The spring peak was on the 28th March when 20 were at Long Nab, Burniston and 25 at Castle Hill, Scarborough. The highest count in autumn was on 15th October with 35 at Long Nab and 10 at Castle Hill.
VC 63 Blacktoft Sands RSPB had 12 pairs and during May 50 males held territory in the Old Moor Wetlands RSPB area. Thirteen singing males were in the Cononley area with five confirmed breeding reports.
VC 64 Several records received of birds singing in January and December. A leucistic bird frequented a garden at Burn Bridge, being uniform pale creamy-buff all over.
VC 65 A common bird with few records received.

Dusky Warbler *Spum*, October Gareth Picton

Barred Warbler *Buckton*, September 2005 Mark Thomas

Dartford Warbler — *Blacka Moor*, October 2005 — Chris Brogdale

Goldcrest — *Spurn*, October 2005 — Iain Leach

Greenish Warbler — *Flamborough Head*, September 2005 — Tony Collinson

Willow Warbler, (pale *acredula*) *Flamborough,* May 2005 Martin Garner

Hume's Warbler *Filey,* December 2005 Tony Collinson

Northern Long-tailed Tit *Easington*, October 2005
Stephen Tomlinson

Red-brested Flycatcher *Flamborough*, September 2005
Dave Mansell

Yellow-browed Warblers *Buckton*. October 2005 Mark Thomas

Lesser Grey Shrike *Spurn*, October 2005 Iain Leach

Great Grey Shrike *Stockbridge*, February 2005 Tony Collinson

Red-backed Shrike

Filey, September 2005

Dave Mansell

Lapland Bunting

Flamborough, November 2005

Martin Garner

Brambling *Spurn*, October 2005 Iain Leach

Hawfinch *Spurn*, September 2005 Iain Leach

Ortolan Bunting *Filey*, September 2005
Dave Mansell

Rose Coloured Starling *Spurn*, August 2005
Vince Garvey

Little Bunting *Spurn*, October 2005
Iain Leach

Yellow-throated Bunting *Bempton*, October 2005
Tony Collinson

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula* **A**
Common to abundant resident; passage migrant and winter visitor
BBS 128/166: 45% (20) increase 1994-2005, 21% (0) increase 2004-5

The resident and largely sedentary British race *melophilus* has been increasing in the county since 2002. Relatively abundant and more widely distributed compared to the previous species in the north and west, but less widespread than *Prunella modularis* in the east.
VC 61 Tophill Low's BBS found a minimum of 40 pairs, up from 30 in 2004 and back to 2003 figures, and 35 pairs bred along Hornsea Rail Trail. Migrants were reported from Filey through the middle part of September, with larger numbers in October: 15 on 3rd, 25 on 15th, 80 on 16th, 60 each on 17th and 18th and 55 on 19th. At Flamborough, nominate continental birds were noted in March and April and again from 10th September, with 145 on 15th October the peak count. At Spurn, migrants noted from late March, with 19 on 22nd, and then a fall of continental birds on 27th when 45 arrived, increasing to 60 the next day. The first small influx of the autumn was 30 on 11th September, then 29 on 3rd October, and the next influx of 105 on 16th October was the highest count of a relatively quiet autumn.
VC 62 Eight were on Scarborough Castle Hill on the 28th March. In the autumn, the numbers recorded along the coast were fairly low throughout. The highest count at Castle Hill was 16 on the 20th September and at Long Nab there were 40 on the 15th October.
VC 63 A very common breeding resident throughout the VC with numbers increasing during October with birds moving in from the continent when at least fifty were recorded at Fairburn Ings RSPB on 23rd. At Old Moor Wetlands RSPB 49 males held territory during May and in the autumn an influx occurred with a notable count of 52 on 9th November. Thirteen breeding pairs with a minimum of 18 fledged broods in the Cononley area.
VC 64 Twenty-two were at Brimham Rocks on 6th February and 18 at St Ives on 23rd April, otherwise low numbers reported from elsewhere. One singing at Simon Seat on 2nd April was unusual due to elevation of the site.
VC 65 Common; 151 ringed were in the Catterick area.

NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos* **A** 2,4,0,1,1*
Amber list: rare breeding summer visitor in the south and rare passage migrant

The declining UK population of this trans-Saharan migrant occurs south of a line drawn from the Humber to the Severn, with Yorkshire at the northern end of its range. Some migrants from the continent, where it is more numerous, can occur.
VC 61 One was on Beacon Lane, Kilnsea, on 28th April (DJS).
VC 63 Two sang on 27th April at Thorne Moors NNR with more males heard in May. Breeding was confirmed in June.
*** Running totals refer only to migrants**

BLUETHROAT *Luscinia svecica* **A** 8,3,1,7,1
Amber list: scarce passage migrant; occasional rare breeder species

The species breeds across the Palaearctic from Spain to Siberia. The red-spotted race *svecica* breeds north of the Baltic to Alaska, and has bred in Scotland. The white-spotted forms *cyanecula* and *namnetum* breed from Spain to the Baltic States and this form has bred in the county, most recently at Thorne Moors.
VC 61 A 'red-spotted' male was seen on Canal Scrape and the Canal banking at Spurn on 14th May (TD).

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros* **A**
Amber list: rare breeder; uncommon passage migrant; rare winter visitor

Breeds from North Africa to southern Scandinavia, locally in SE England, typically on derelict sites or in town centres, wintering in the south of its range.
VC 61 A wintering bird was at Faxfleet on 3rd February. Migrants reported on the coast in March and April and again in October. One was at Barmston on 28th March. Four were reported from Filey in March, but one on Carr Naze on 31st July was unexpected. Five were seen between 16th and 31st October. One at Flamborough on 22nd, two on 23rd and one on 24th March and two on 17th April were the only spring records there, and 15 were noted in October, including three on 15th. A similar pattern was noted at Spurn, where seven on 20th March, then one to six seen daily until 3rd April. One to four were seen on a further nine dates to 24th April. A late bird was then seen on four dates between 14th and 18th May, giving a spring bird/day total of 81. One was seen on 6th August, then between 7th October and 1st November there were 63 bird/days including 12 on 15th October. Ten were recorded in the Easington area between 21st March and 11th May, one at Barmston on 28th March, one in Bridlington on 1st April, three in the Easington area on 15th October and two at Aldbrough on 17th.
VC 62 In the spring birds were at Marine Drive Scarborough wall on the 27th to 29th March, with two on 28th and 29th at South Gare, one staying to 30th. Also in April, singles were seen at Ravenscar, Skelton, Scaling Dam, Scarborough and Saltburn between 2nd and 17th. Unusually, there was a mid-summer record with one on the beach at Jackson's Bay on 19th July (MF). A first-summer male was by York Minster between 15th

August and 21st September. In October one was at South Gare on 14th and another at Boulby Cliffs from 25th to 27th. On the coast, one was at Ravenscar on 6th and one at Saltwick Nab on 14th November.
VC 63 A female/immature bird was in the Sprotborough Flash area on 24th December.
VC 64 A first-summer male was at Goredale Scar on 10th March (IC) and a male and female at Oxenhope on 21st April.

REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* A
Amber list: uncommon breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 11/166 (10 in NY)

The population in North Yorkshire appeared to be stable compared to 2004, although the national trend, as evident in Cleveland this year, is downwards for this trans-Saharan migrant.
VC 61 No breeding records were received. Just nine spring birds at Flamborough with the first on 14th April, and no major fall there in autumn either, with eight on 10th and ten on 11th September the highest counts. Singles were seen on 16th and 18th October. There were just two at Filey in spring, on 1st and 6th May, and 20+ in autumn between 31st August and 24th September. The spring bird/day total at Spurn was 21 from 15th April, and the autumn day/total amounted to just 156. The only double figure days were in September, with 15 on 5th, 25 on 10th and 11th, and 18 on 12th. Reports elsewhere included one in Skipsea on 1st May, one at Tophill Low on 8th August and one at Paull Holme Strays on 11th September. The last occurrence at Spurn was on 18th October, but one was in Easington on 19th.
VC 62 There were no spring coastal records from the area, and the first of the year was at Harwood Dale Forest on the 17th April. Records came from a variety of sites where breeding may have taken place. These included Asheberry Wood, Dalby Forest, Eston Moor (breeding proven), Forge Valley, Langdale End, Mowthorpe, Nettledale (three pairs in boxes), RAF Fylingdales, Raincliffe Woods and Scar Wood. A juvenile was at Scaling Dam on 3rd August, but the autumn passage was very poor, between 5th September and the last at South Cliff Scarborough GC on 11th October.
VC 63 Continues to decline throughout the area both as a passage migrant and as a breeding species. A male was at Denaby Ings on 10th April and one was singing at Potteric Carr on 12th April. A male was observed singing on territory at Hardcastle Crags between 1st and 20th May, but there was no evidence that breeding took place. In July a juvenile was at West End Golf Course-Roils Hill on 10th which may have been raised nearby, and a family party including two juveniles was at Ogden on 17th. A male, female and juvenile were seen at Cononley from 12th to 20th August and one at Cononley Lead Mine on 31st. Single birds on passage were seen in the Wintersett area on 8th May, Thorpe Marsh on 19th September and at Fairburn Ings RSPB on 3rd and 15th September.
VC 64 First returning birds were at Dob Park on 8th April, Stirton on 12th, Farnham GP on 15th and 16th with a female at Staveley NR on the latter date. Twelve were found along the Buckden Raike on 10th May. Birds were on breeding sites by mid-May. Bred at Folly Hall Wood and probably Strid Wood, Bolton Abbey, John O'Gaunt's Res. Returning birds were at Farnham GP on 31st July and 4th September, two at Hay-a-Park on 13th August and single birds at Staveley NR on 31st July, 23rd and 29th August and 12th September, with the last noted at Thorlby on 28th September.
VC 65 Bred in the woods of the dales, and 25 young were ringed in the Catterick area. A passage bird was at Cleasby GP on 22nd April.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra* A
Uncommon breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 2/166

Nationally declining migrant that winters in Africa, with some evidence suggesting a decrease in its breeding range in the Pennines. Little evidence from the county this year from which to conclude any trends.
VC 61 Very scarce, with singles at Tophill Low and Paull Holme Strays, both on 11th September the only records away from the coast, part of a fall that saw 30 in the Easington area that day. The first spring arrival was at Spurn on 23rd April and the last of spring there was seen on 23rd May. The only double-figure counts were 11 on 1st and 13 on 3rd May. The spring bird/day total amounted to just 49. The autumn bird/day total was a respectable 339 from 15th August to 5th October, including 45 on 11th September. There were three spring records at Filey from 1st May, and the 14 on 31st August, with reasonable numbers in September including 36 on 11th and four other double-figure counts. Ten at Flamborough on 1st May were the first, with a further seven spring reports. In autumn, return passage started on 21st August, with highest counts in September of 14 on 4th, 16 on 5th and 17 on 11th. The last was at Flamborough on 11th October.
VC 62 Recorded between 24th April, when one seen at Boulby and 20th October, when the last was at South Gare. There was a small arrival along the coast on 1st May, when three were present at South Gare. Bred at Scaling Dam and Waupley Moor, and present in summer at Dimmingdale, Ouzegill and Pockley Moor. A fall of migrants on 10th and 11th September included 11 at Saltburn and the same number at South Gare.
VC 63 The first was at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB on 12th April, where small numbers passed through in spring and autumn with the only multiple records being two on both 2nd May and 30th August. Singles at Woodlesford Lock and Pugneys CP on 27th April were followed by further singles on 1st May at Fairburn Ings RSPB, Soil Hill, Southfield Res and Withens Clough. Five or six pairs were on territory between Blake Dean and Widdop with a further four pairs at other sites in the Halifax area. At Beal Carrs there were singles on 11th and 12th July, 11th and 13th August with two on 30th August and the last, another single on 14th September; Blacktoft Sands RSPB had only one occurrence, of a single on 23rd August and Southfield Res

had four autumn singles up to 2nd September. Eight were at Oxenhope on 29th July and five at Cononley Lead Mines on 27th August. Migrants were noted at Fairburn Ings RSPB between 2nd and 22nd September with a maximum of four, with late birds at Roils Head on 30th September and 1st October, and at Swillington Ings on 2nd October.

VC 64 An early arrival was at Rombald's Moor on 29th March, a month before the next at Ripon Parks and Thorlby on 29th April, then Staveley NR on 1st May, 3rd and 8th when one in Colsterdale and one near Buckden on 10th. Breeding was reported from Colsterdale, Dallow Moor, Fountains Earth Moor, Low Bishopside and Woogill. Three were on Barden Fell on 3rd July, three at Lower Barden Res on 21st, with a male at Snaygill SW on 1st September, female on 2nd, female or immature on 11th and one on 17th and one at Hay-a-Park on 18th October.

VC 65 Breeds primarily on higher ground, with pairs in double figures reported from the Colsterdale area.

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquatus* A

Amber list: scarce breeding resident and uncommon autumn/winter visitor. BBS 4/166

The race found in Britain, *hibernans*, is nationally increasing (227% increase 1994-2005). The breeding distribution is on the moors and uplands in the county, and evidence from YDUBSA has shown a marked increase from 1999 (2 pairs) to 2003 (28 pairs), with casual observations suggesting this upward trend is being maintained.

VC 61 One was at Welton on 1st January and two were at Filey in January, two in Primrose Valley in February and two again at Filey in March. Filey's first breeding record was confirmed when birds were seen feeding young in Primrose Valley in May. Wintered at Flamborough, with two pairs there at the end of the year. The maximum count at Flamborough was 24 on 15th October. Continental birds of the race *S. t. rubicola* were noted there on 21st and 23rd April, and three on 14th October, with some of birds on 24th thought to be of this race. Up to four birds wintered in the Spurn area, with some passage in March and singles in April on 3rd and 22nd. Then recorded from 9th September to the year-end, with maxima of 12 on 27th October and nine on 31st. Elsewhere, one at North Ferriby on 20th March, singles at Tophill Low on 24th and 29th September and 9th October, one at Bank Island on 31st October, a wintering birds at East Cottingwith from 19th November, three winterers at North Duffield Carrs from 26th November, five on Cowden range on 12th November and in December, two at Aldborough on 11th and one at Barmston on 1st.

VC 62 Wintering birds included a pair at Cayton Bay, and records from Bransdale, Cromer Point, Ravenscar and three birds at Skinningrove in the first two months, with passage noted up to 17th May. Proven breeding occurred at Coatham Dunes, Rudland and Saltburn with pairs also present at Boulby, Coatham Stob, Fylingdale moor, Ouzegill and Sleddale. Return passage was noted from 4th September, including a fall of 12 birds at South Gare on 23rd October. Late birds included two on Wheeldale Moor on 19th November, three pairs at Fylingdales on 22nd November, and in December a pair at Star Carr on 4th, two birds at South Gare on 24th and a pair at Saltburn on 25th.

VC 63 Noted in every month at sites in the Halifax area with eleven pairs breeding, two having second broods. Birds were also recorded on Thorne Moors NNR where breeding was confirmed. At Blacktoft Sands RSPB up to four were present in January and February, and during March nine on the 3rd with the last on 14th. At Swillington Ings at least four birds were present from the beginning of the year until 18th March. At Beal Carrs, single birds – mostly males – were recorded from 3rd January until 18th March and wintering birds were also at Southfield Res and Ringstone Edge to 18th March. Up to two were at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB until 18th April. Birds began returning at Swillington Ings from 21st September with at least six back in residence from mid-November to the end of the year. The first autumn record at Blacktoft was on 26th September, with up to five during October, seven in November and two in December. Beal Carrs saw one to three present from 8th September until the end of the year. Five birds were at Fairburn Ings RSPB on 18th September and two birds were present for most of October and November. Two were at Cononley Lead Mine on 2nd October and nine birds at Cold Edge Dams on 11th with ten at Soil Hill on 17th. Southfield Res had two birds in October and November while birds returned at Old Moor from 23rd October with up to three present to year end.

VC 64 Fourteen pairs raised at least 40 young, including double broods, in the Bradford area and four confirmed breeding pairs were in the Harrogate area. However the number of adults and juveniles reported between July and September would indicate breeding success was far higher. Birds were recorded throughout the year; one at Bilton on 6th March, Staveley NR from 11th to 16th May, three adults and five young at Woogill on 11th July, and seven juveniles in Norwood Lane on 1st October, a male at Farnham GP on 2nd, eight at Lea Green on 18th with three on 7th November and one on 18th December. Two were at Staveley NR on 15th October, one on 18th and 1st November with one at Snaygill SW on 17th. Recorded from 32 sites in Wharfedale including four at Barden Moor on 2nd April, nine, including five juveniles, at Lower Barden Res on 12th July, five on Ilkley Moor on 6th September, six at Roundhill on 16th November and Timble Ings on 17th and seven at Grimwith Res on 12th December.

VC 65 Another species of primarily high ground, several pairs were in the Colsterdale area, with a brood of three ringed in the Catterick area. Lowland records were of a single bird at Nosterfield NR on11th and 17th March.

NORTHERN WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe* A

Scarce breeding summer visitor; uncommon passage migrant. BBS 32/166

Widespread in Europe and as far north as Greenland, wintering in Africa south of the Sahara. Has previously declined markedly in its breeding range on the Pennines.

VC 61 First recorded at Spurn on 18th March, and three were at North Ferriby on 20th. Four were seen at Filey on 20th March, with 33 on 1st May the highest count. Autumn passage there peaked in September with 45 on 9th and then 21 bird/days in October, before late records of one on Carr Naze on 1st and 7th November and the last on the Brigg on 9th. 119 were at Flamborough on 1st May and the peak autumn count there was 39 on 11th September. Birds of the Greenland form *O. o. leucorhoa* were noted in May, June, August and September, including 16 on 1st May. 100 were at Sammy's Point, Easington on 30th April, and in autumn, 35 on 11th September. At Spurn this species had an excellent spring, logging 839 bird/days. The first noteworthy arrival occurred on 12th April when 34 were logged. Ten birds were ringed that day, with measurements indicating four Greenland, three to four Icelandic and two British-race birds. In contrast, it was another poor autumn with just 292 bird/days logged with the highest count 37 on 10th September. Inland, at North Cave Wetlands, 13+ on 1st May was a day record count for the reserve and all were of the Greenland race. Birds were also reported at Watton NR on 20th April, PHENR between 30th April and 18th September, with six on 2nd May, North Cattleholmes on 1st May, Tophill Low on 15th September, North Duffield Carrs from 30th September to 2nd October and 9th to 20th October.

VC 62 The first was at South Gare on 18th March, and then seen almost daily through March, with a second arrival on 16th and 17th April and again 22nd April to 3rd May. The second arrival included many of the Greenland race *O. o. leucorhoa* with 49 trapped at South Gare between 11th April and 7th May alone. RAF Fylingdales also saw an arrival, with 10 on the 19th. Also at this site 17 birds were present on the 10th May, and two 'Greenland race' birds were ringed on the 11th. In summer, birds were recorded from Eston Moor and Boulby. Autumn passage, in comparison, was unexceptional, with a fall 9th and 10th September, and the last, a Greenland bird, was at South Gare on 5th November.

VC 63 Birds arrived en mass on 19th March in the Halifax area when eleven were found at various sites and this was also the first date at Old Moor, where numbers peaked at 11 on 18th May. Elsewhere, one was seen on 19th at Luddenden Dean and three at Roils Head and one to four between 19th and 22nd March at Redmires Res, Edderthorpe Flash and Wilsic. At least sixteen passed through Pugneys CP between 23rd March and 2nd May and a male was caught and ringed at Wintersett on 9th April was of the Greenland Race. In April, 217 were recorded at Trough Lane and other sites in the Oxenhope area and 337 in May, with peak counts at Trough Lane of 21 on 2nd, 22 on 4th and 27 on 6th with 44 at Thornton Moor Res during the same period. Small numbers occurred on passage at Beal Carrs, Blacktoft Sands RSPB, Fairburn Ings RSPB and Swillington Ings both during the spring and autumn with twenty on 7th May at Skelton Marsh. Blackmoorfoot Res recorded small numbers from 19th March to 27th May with twelve on 3rd May the largest gathering. Breeding was proven at Soil Hill, Langfield Common, Dean Head, Pack House, Whiteholme and Withens Clough. In August, three were at Cononley Lead mine on 17th and daily maxima of 12 were recorded at Trough Lane on 25th and 27th. Three were at Cononley Lead Mines on 3rd September. A late bird on 2nd November at Soil Hill was the last of the year. Greenland race *O. o. leucorhoa*: ten different birds at Soil Hill between 27th September and 2nd November.

VC 64 The first arrivals were on 19th March at Farnham GP and Colsterdale. Twelve were on Burley Moor on 18th May. In August, two returning birds were at Staveley NR on 2nd and one on 6th. In September, a single was at Hay-a-Park from 8th to 10th, three at Stanghill Barn on 21st with one at Staveley NR on 8th October. Bred on Askwith Moor, along limestone scars on east side of Wharfedale and above Arncliffe, and probably at Rombald's Moor. One referable to the Greenland race *O. o. leucorhoa* was at Fellbeck on 21st May.

VC 65 A high ground breeder, seven adults and 11 young were ringed in the Catterick area. The first was at Nosterfield NR on 18th March, followed by singles at Lingham and Colsterdale on 19th. Autumn low ground records were a juvenile at Nosterfield NR on 26th July and 3rd August. Birds of the Greenland race *O. o. leucorhoa* were single males at Nosterfield NR and Lingham Lake on 30th April and Nosterfield NR on 15th May, and seven at Stapleton on 1st May.

DESERT WHEATEAR *Oenanthe deserti* A 0,0,0,0,1

Vagrant; 7 previous records

This species breeds from Morocco east to Central Asia, with autumn records most likely to be accounted for by reverse migration of eastern birds. The previous one was also in Cleveland, at Boulby in 2000.

VC 62 A first-winter male was seen at South Gare on 29th November (CVG: BT *et al.*).

RING OUSEL *Turdus torquatus* A

Red list: uncommon and declining summer visitor; uncommon passage migrant. BBS 6/166

Breeds in upland Britain, but principally a passage migrant from northern Africa/southern Europe. A slight decrease in range again noted in North Yorkshire for a species that has declined significantly in its Pennines breeding range, in line with the national trend.

VC 61 Recorded from 21st March to 13th May on the coast, with the first at Easington, 17 at Filey, 13 at Flamborough, one at Grimston on 21st April, up to five at Sammy's Point in April, and a spring bird/day

total of 44 at Spurn. Inland, one was singing at Tophill Low on 19th April and one was at PHENR on 1st May. Return passage was noted from 10th September at Flamborough through to the last at Spurn on 9th November, when two were also present in the North Duffield car park. Filey recorded 27, Flamborough 46, with 32 on 15th October, and Spurn 96, with 26 on the 'big thrush day' of 15th October. Thirty were recorded in Easington on that date, and singles on Common Lane, Welton and Paull Holme Strays. Others were recorded in October at Atwick on 16th, Ulrome on 17th and Paull and PHENR on 23rd.
VC 62 The first of the year was at South Gare on 20th March. Noted in the breeding season in the Ryedale district on moorland edge, such as Shaw Rigg. An exceptional autumn passage was noted both in the Scarborough area where 27 bird/days were logged between 8th October and 2nd November, and in south Cleveland, with 13 at Boulby on 17th October the peak count.
VC 63 One at Walshaw Dean on 19th March was the first of the year, where one pair bred successfully. Birds were present at Soil Hill and Thornton Moor Res in April. Four pairs were holding territory at Blake Dean during May. A single male was reported at Burbage Moor on 20th March with three males there on 24th March. A male passed through Beal Carrs on 26th April. Eight were reported near Strines Res on 22nd October. The only birds seen on passage away from the breeding areas were one at Fairburn Ings RSPB on 19th October, four at Soil Hill on 21st October and one on 5th November and one at Blacktoft Sands RSPB from 5th to 9th November the last of the year.
VC 64 A disastrous decline in breeding in the south of Wharfedale but holding on in the north. Two were at Bolton Gill on 30th March with several individuals arriving on different parts of Burley Moor on 11th April with other sightings later in the month at Luddenden Dean. One was at Barden Moor on 12th July. Bred at Dallowgill Moor and Kilnsey. One was on lower ground at Thorpe Underwood Lakes on 17th October, and then in the two week period from 21st, 14 reported were in the Bradford recording area from six sites. Elsewhere, one at Stirton on 20th October and three at Caseker Scar on 7th November and the last at Barden Fell on 9th.
VC 65 A local summer visitor on high ground, two males and a female were on Masham Moor on 3rd June and a pair bred in Colsterdale. One in Agill on 22nd October was the last.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula* A
Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor
BBS 147/166: 42% (19) increase 1994-2005, 8% (3) increase 2004-5

Increased particularly from 1994 to 200, since when then has been a more stable population. A further increase was noted this year in North Yorkshire, where it is particularly abundant.
VC 61 At Tophill Low, 44-45 pairs bred, up from 37 in 2004, and 62 pairs bred along Hornsea Rail Trail. At Spurn, 12 pairs bred, a slight increase. On the coast, counts of birds leaving included 70 at Filey and 100 at Spurn on 20th March, with another fall of 150 at Spurn on 26th. The first small influx appeared in early October with arrivals on 15th when 1090 were counted at Flamborough Head, at Spurn, at least 140 were grounded and 390 left south off the Point and at Filey with 120 were counted, with 240 on 16th and 200 on 17th. There were further arrivals on the coast between 24th, when 1045 were grounded at Spurn, and 28th and in November, especially Spurn, where 177 on 9th, 162 on 17th, and 170 on 22nd.
VC 62 At Hummersea 1300 flew in off the sea on 13th October 150 + were at Long Nab on 15th and 800 over Boulby on 16th, with 1750 there on 17th.
VC 63 Common resident breeder and winter visitor. Noted throughout the area with the largest flocks being 130 at Old Moor Wetlands on 7th January and 110 on 26th November, 50 at Fairburn Ings RSPB on 23rd October and 25th November and 80 in the fields at Knostrop Sewage Works, Leeds on 19th October, part of a large movement of immigrant thrushes.
VC 64 The largest counts were 34 at Fishergreen on 22nd Jan, 23 on 19th February and 53 on 30th November. 30 to 40 were at Quarry Moor, Ripon in November and December. Up to 20 birds recoded at other sites throughout the area. Absent in the latter part of the year from some sites, possibly due to the dry weather.
VC 65 A common resident, under-recorded: 143 were ringed at Catterick.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris* A
Amber list: common passage migrant and winter visitor. Has bred. BBS 3/166

An entirely migratory species that breeds in Scandinavia and northern Europe east to Siberia, often passing through the county to winter further south and west. Birds present in BBS surveys were late returning birds.
VC 61 Counts in the first winter period included 80 at Welton and 00's above North Newbald on 1st January, possibly newly arrived, and departing birds including 200 at PHENR on 19th March, 200 at Tophill on 20th March and 250+ east there on 1st April. High counts at Spurn in January included 150 on 9th, 143 on 14th, and 31 on 16th, with 270 on 26th March. Late birds at Flamborough were recorded on 5th and 9th June. In autumn, singles at Spurn on 10th and Flamborough on 17th September were the first. One to three were seen in early October, and then 152 moved through Spurn on the 'big thrush day' of 15th. A minimum of 2000 was logged on 24th October, dropping to single figures by the end of the month. At Flamborough, 321 on 23rd October was the peak count of a relatively quiet autumn. Numbers were similarly low at Filey, with 80 in-off on 1st November the peak count. In November at Spurn, 668 came in off the sea and 100 were grounded on 14th and December saw 237 on 3rd.
VC 62 Plenty are usually recorded inland in the winter, particularly on The Carrs, but rather fewer records

were received this year, peak counts being 500 at Wykeham Ings and 150 at Wykeham Lakes on the 2nd and 110 at Scaling Dam on 4th January, and 350 at Grinkle on 22nd February. One was seen on Cawthorn Moor on 3rd July.
VC 63 Small flocks of up to 100 were noted at many sites in the first half of the year with the biggest flocks being in January: 1000 at Old Moor RSPB on 3rd, 300 at Cononley Ings on 5th, 900 at Leeshaw on 11th, 500 at Fairburn Ings RSPB also in January and in March and 300 at Cullingworth: 1000 at Cononley on 25th, 300+ at Southfield Res on 27th and 29th. At Beal Carrs the largest flocks seen in the first part of the year were *c.*300 on 11th January, with *c.*250 on 1st February, *c.*375 on 9th February and *c.*300 on 9th March. The last for the first winter period was at Old Moor on 16th April. Birds returned early with sightings of five at Cononley Ings on 16th September and one at Luddenden Dean on 22nd September, followed by two at Cold Edge Dams on 29th. At Fairburn Ings RSPB 4920 flew over between 24th and 31st October with 1800 on 25th the biggest movement. On 24th October 1500 flew south at Swillington Ings. Good numbers passed through Blacktoft Sands RSPB in late October and early November including 300 on 24th October, 900 on 25th October, 150 on 21st November & 600 on 22nd November. Other October counts included 484 at Paul Clough and 2700 at Thornton Moor Res on 26th, 1315at Thornton Moor on 27th, 500 on 29th, 582 on 5th November and 533 on 23rd, with 1200 at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB on 24th November and 300+ on Went Ings on 9th December.
VC 64 Maximum counts were: January – 1100 at Thorlby on 3rd and 500 at Penny Pot Lane on 6th; in February – 400 at Spofforth on 1st; in March – 400 at Ripon Parks on 2nd, 400 at Thorlby on 22nd. 900 at Butler Hill on 23rd with when 300 at Norwood Lane, and also 600 at Barden Scale and 400 at Rombald's Moor during the month. In April - 500 at Newhouses on 4th with the last at Horton-in-Ribblesdale on 19th May. First returning birds were four in Bradford on 19th September. 400 were at Farnham GP and 814 at Caldene Fields on 24th October and 400 were at Glovershaw on 10th December.
VC 65 Several large flocks were noted in the early part of the year. In February 440 flew over the High Batts NR on 2nd, 1000 were in Agill on 12th and 100 at Nosterfield NR on 13th. In March 400 were at Breary Banks on 6th, 850 over Marfield NR on 19th, 120 at Lingham Lake on 26th and 600 at Leighton Res on 28th. The first for the autumn were 1000 south over Nosterfield on 15th October, with 800 the next day. 1500 were in the fields between Agill and Leighton Res on 26th December.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos* A
Red list and UK BAP species: common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor
BBS 100/166: 46% (14) increase 1994-2005, -2% (3) decrease 2004-5

Having increased from the low levels of 1999, the population now appears to be stable, at about one quarter the population size of *Turdus merula*.
VC 61 The BBS survey at Tophill Low found 23 pairs, up from 14 in 2004, with 35 pairs along Hornsea Rails Trail. A freshly laid egg was discovered at Filey on 2nd February. Autumn arrivals in October included 350 at Filey, 497 at Flamborough Head and 560 at Spurn on 15th; 350 at Filey, 296 at Flamborough and 130 at Spurn on 16th, 220 at Filey and *c.*85 at Atwick on 17th. A steady influx at Filey then of 40-120 birds between 18th- 27th October, with 240 at Spurn on 24th and 60 at Filey on 28th.
VC 62 The maximum autumn counts were associated with the arrival of thrushes in October: *c.*1200 at Hummersea on 15th and 2250 at Boulby on 17th. Forty were on Castle Hill Scarborough on 13th October.
VC 63 Common winter visitor and resident breeding birds with 37 territories located at Wintersett, twelve pairs bred at Throstle Nest Farm, four pairs bred at Blackmoorfoot Res, several pairs at Pugneys CP, with nine singing birds at Swillington Ings. At Fairburn Ings RSPB 16 were noted in January and in October there was a small influx at Swillington Ings with at least ten on 14th, 26 flew south on 16th and 18 on 28th. At Old Moor Wetlands RSPB ten males held territory and there was a peak count of 36 on 16th October. At least six were on Thorne Moors in May. At Denholme Clough 16 were present on 8th October.
VC 64 Singing noted in early January with one again in song at Glasshouses from 20th to 22nd December. The only counts were: 56 at Strid Wood on 24th April, 20 at Grimwith Res on 12th September, 25 at Staveley NR on 18th and 30 on 15th October.
VC 65 Fairly common resident with breeding reported from several sites: 37 were ringed in the Catterick area.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus* A
Amber list: common passage migrant and winter visitor

Breeds from Iceland to eastern Siberia, but birds wintering in the county are mostly of Fennoscandian origin. Possibly bred at Flamborough Head in 2003.
VC 61 Widespread but scarce in both winter periods, but an incredible influx was observed on 15th October. Late birds were at Flamborough, where two May records and one on 5th June. An unseasonable bird put in an appearance at Wire Dump, Spurn on 21st June, and what was presumably the same bird was there on 14th, 26th and 29th July and 9th August. After the first returnee at Spurn on 10th and Filey on 11th September, the easterlies during October brought in large flocks at Filey, with 2000 on 15th, 1000 on 16th and a further 600 individuals on 17th. Throughout the rest of October, 50-150 birds were recorded each day, with size of the flocks declining towards the month end. The 1st November saw another influx with 450 birds. At Flamborough, 118 arrived on 7th October overshadowed by a remarkable 27,000 on 15th October, with 500 still present on 16th. At Spurn on 15th October, 13,500 were counted moving over or dropping in, but

realistically up to 20,000 probably passed through the area. The previous record was 10,000 set in 1969. Other high counts during the month included 1182 on 17th, 844 on 19th, 1100 on 22nd and at least 7000 were counted moving through the area on 24th. At Easington, 350 on 14th was a precursor to 25,000 on 15th, with 000's still present on 16th. Other counts included *c.*1500 at Atwick and 500 at Paull Holme Strays on 15th October and 400 at Tophill Low on 23rd to 24th October.
VC 62 There were few large counts from the first winter period with 100 at Wykeham Ings on 2nd January, 50 at Skelton Castle on 5th and 100 at Wykeham Carr on 9th. The last spring record was on 3rd May. Large numbers arrived on the south Cleveland coast in mid-October, including 7500 on 15th, mainly in the Saltburn/ Hummersea area, with 3420 counted at Kettleness in two hours on 15th and 2500 at Boulby on 17th.
VC 63 Small flocks were scattered across the area in the first part of the year with a peak count at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB of 270 on 3rd January, and the last birds noted at there on 8th April. Other January counts were 350 at Cononley Woodside, 250 at Elland GP and 384 at Thornton Moor Res, all on 1st. Three flying over Swillington Ings on 17th September heralded autumn migration, then birds at Denholme Clough on 2nd October. Mid-October saw a massive movement mainly at Swillington Ings and Fairburn Ings RSPB where 35,010 flew over between 15th and 31st October with the heaviest movement on 16th with 18,500 over. On 25th 3,500 flew over Swillington Ings with a similar number seen flying over at different areas within the site meaning the total probably reached 10,000. On 15th October 600 flew south-east at Wintersett, 400 flew south-west at Pugneys CP with 900 south-west on 16th and 2,500 flew south-west on 18th and 19th; 1400 at Thornton Moor on 26th, 1615 on 28th with other counts of 866, 700 and 510 in the same month with 600 on 1st November. At Southfield Res in October there were flocks of 700+ on 15th, 600+ on 25th and 27th and 300+ on 31st. Beal Carrs' peak count was of 900 on 17th October while at Old Moor there were 2500 on 25th October.
VC 64 Maximum counts in January were: 250 at Darley on 18th, 4500 at Silsden on 25th and 4500 at roost at Kildwick in January and early February. In February: 300 were at Darley on 9th with 500 on 28th, the last birds being 70 at Baildon on 21st March. In October, 1100 were over Farnham GP on 13th, 500 at Timble Ings on 15th when 500 at Staveley NR and 1200 Burley Moor, 600 at Caldene Fields on 18th with 300 at Sharow, 400 at the Great Yorkshire Showground and 5000 over Harlow Carr Gardens and 1500 over Staveley NR on 24th.
VC 65 The only notable flocks were 250 at Breary Banks on 22nd January and 120 on 4th December, with 1000 over Nosterfield NR on 15th October and 500 the next day.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus* A
Amber list: fairly common resident and scarce passage migrant
BBS 77/166: -19% (-18) decrease 1994-2005, 35% (4) increase 2004-5

Nationally declining since 2000, a welcome recovery in fortunes was noted in BBS surveys, with population increases particularly noted in North and East Yorkshire.
VC 61 The population is thriving in the Hull Valley area, with 17 at Tophill on 20th April, 31 there on 3rd September and 19 at Wassand on 4th October. Ten pairs bred in the Tophill Low area. Up to four recorded in most months at Spurn. October saw a regular influx of birds at Filey with between 2-8 birds observed coming in off the sea on most dates after 3rd. A peak influx of 16 individuals occurred on 15th October, when 14 were noted with the thrush arrival at Flamborough.
VC 62 A widespread breeding bird away from the moors, with others passing through from the continent and arriving to winter. Post-breeding flocks included 52 at Guisborough on 17th August.
VC 63 Fifteen territories were located at Wintersett and four pairs bred at Pugneys CP. At Old Moor Wetlands RSPB six pairs held territory and there was a peak count of 32 on 27th September. A nest was found on Thorne Moors NNR. Late summer counts included 32 at Swillington Ings on 4th July with 72 on 6th August, 12 at Cononley Moor on 13th July, 45 at Luddenden Foot on 26th and 35 at Wintersett on 27th August and 27 at Denholme Clough on 2nd October.
VC 64 Few breeding reports but post-breeding numbers reported from the BOG area: ten at Askwith on 7th July, eight at Studley Park on 8th, seven at Ripon GC on 13th July, 14 at Bewerley on 23rd, 12 at Pateley Bridge on 16th August, 16 at Scarcliffe Farm on 30th and 19 at Butler Hill on 2nd October. The only winter count was of 55 at Barden Scale on 8th December.
VC 65 Widespread resident, breeding confirmed in the Colsterdale and Catterick areas.

CETTI'S WARBLER *Cettia cetti* A 0,1,1,2,3
Rare visitor; 14 previous records

Breeds in southern England, from where post-breeding dispersal or exploration is likely to occur, with northerly range expansion probably dependent on a succession of mild winters.
VC 61 A report of one at North Marsh, TLNR on 6th February (GC: CC), was re-confirmed on 11th when the bird was seen again. It sang there from at least 17th April to 1st May and was recorded into June. It was later recorded from 4th December to the year-end (MGH *et al.*).
VC 63 Singles were at Worsbrough Res from 30th January until 3rd March and at Blacktoft Sands RSPB a wintering bird from 2004 remained until 14th March and it or another from 27th October to the year end.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia* A

Red list: uncommon to scarce breeding summer visitor and passage migrant

This secretive West Palearctic species winters in West Africa. There has been a substantial national population decline since the 1970s, but local populations fluctuate annually.

VC 61 Reeling birds were noted at Easington Long Bank on 15th April, Hornsea Mere on 24th April and BPNR 24th April to 1st May, Brough Airfield on 29th April, on several dates in June and July at Welton Waters and Watton NR, at PHENR on 12th June and by the canal at Pocklington on 11th July. The traditional stronghold at Cowden held seven birds on 14th May. Coastal migration at the three observatories comprised: Filey – singles on 14th and Primrose Valley on 30th May; Flamborough – only one spring record on 30th May, and one in autumn on 10th and 11th September; Spurn – one along the Canal on 21st April, two 'reeling' males in the Triangle on 1st May, one along the Canal from 1st to 24th July, one at Wire Dump on 27th July, and in autumn, one on 11th September and a late bird on 17th October.

VC 62 A migrant was at Long Nab on 2nd May. One was reeling at Runswick Bay on 29th May, breeding was confirmed at Hummersea, one was regularly heard between 23rd and 31st July at Old Scarboro' Tip, Scalby and a late reeling bird was at Skinningrove on 5th September. Autumn passage was very light, the last of the year occurring at Saltburn on 10th September.

VC 63 An early bird at Elland GP on 10th April was the first for the year followed by one at Fairburn Ings RSPB on the 12th which remained until at least 19th May, with two on 16th July. At least three birds were reeling at Pugneys CP until July, three on territories at Swillington Ings also into July suggesting they may have bred. Occasionally sightings were noted at Wintersett Res and one was at Rodley NR in May and again in July. Present on Thorne Moors NNR between 16th April and 7th July, with a bird alarm calling on the latter date, suggesting young were present. Reports of single birds came from Sandall Beat Wood on 28th April, Bessacarr, Doncaster on 11th May and Southfield Res on 25th April and 2nd August while two were reeling at Potteric Carr on 30th July. Singles were also at Doe Park Res on 19th June, 8th and 13th August. First recorded at Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 21st April, then birds were singing regularly until early August: eight birds held territory – a slight decline compared to recent years. Recorded between the 22nd April and 2nd July at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB where seven males held territory. In the autumn a migrant bird was flushed at Green Withens Clough Halifax on 11th September.

VC 64 Singles were at Great Ouseburn on 24th and 25th April, Ox Close, Ripon and Stackbridge NR on 1st May, Staveley NR on 12th, with three on 23rd and last on 18th July.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* A

Fairly common breeding summer visitor and uncommon passage migrant. BBS 12/166

Breeding from Ireland to central Siberia, this trans-Saharan migrant breeds in the county on low ground around lakes, along waterways and also in oilseed rape fields. Nationally it is slightly decreasing.

VC 61 The BBS at Tophill Low found no change from 2004, with 19 pairs. There is a stable breeding population at Flamborough, which arrived on 21st April and left on 1st August, with one migrant on 28th August. Eight pairs bred at Spurn, where there was a late bird on 2nd October.

VC 62 The first was singing at South Gare on 31st March. Highlighted by survey work in 2004 many birds breed in the numerous dykes and rough areas on The Carrs. This year counts in that area included ten singing along the River Hertford on the 8th May, four on Willerby Carr on the 15th May, five pairs at the northern end of Star Carr on the 12th June, and four pairs at Wykeham Ings on the 28th June. The last records were from Saltburn and South Gare on 10th September.

VC 63 First recorded at Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 9th April with the last record on 27th September. A partial breeding survey would suggest little variation on the last full survey which estimated a population of 375 pairs. At Pugneys CP numbers were reported to be down on previous years. Numbers were also lower in the Halifax area giving cause for concern. Thirty-seven birds were on territory in the Wintersett area and eighteen in the Woodlesford area of Leeds, while Southfield Res recorded ten singing birds on 22nd April. At Old Moor Wetlands RSPB recorded between 12th April and 17th September with 38 males holding territory and birds were present at two sites in Cononley area. A single was at Marley SW on 26th April, where it bred.

VC 64 Single birds at Staveley NR on 23rd April, Hay-a-Park and Snaygill Ings on 24th and Chelker Res on 29th. Fifteen were at Staveley NR by 1st May and five at Cattal on 14th. Bred Otley Wetland, Staveley NR and Stocksbridge NR and possibly Grimwith Res where males were singing on 26th June and 7th August and a further five sites. Singles were at Snaygill SW on 4th August, Grimwith Res on 7th, Farnham GP on 29th, Staveley NR and Stocksbridge NR on 4th September and the last at Snaygill SW on 12th.

VC 65 Bred at the new reedbed site Flask's Lake, and 17 were ringed in the Catterick area.

MARSH WARBLER *Acrocephalus palustris* A 6,3,1,1,2

Red list and UK BAP species: rare passage migrant; occasional rare breeder

This trans-Saharan migrant is widespread through the Western Palaearctic, but its small breeding population in southern England is declining.

VC 61 One was singing in the hedge opposite the Churchyard at Kilnsea on 8th June (AAH *et al.*).

VC 62 A first-winter was at South Gare on 17th October (JR: RCT).

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* A
Uncommon breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 4/166

The nominate subspecies breeds in the western Palearctic and winters south of the Sahara. Although restricted by habitat requirements, nationally the population has been spreading northwards and westwards, and this pattern is reflected in the county.
VC 61 At Tophill Low the BBS found 54 pairs, down from 64 in 2004, but seemed to fare well elsewhere, with 12 singing at Saltmarshe Delph/Willowgarth, nine at Welton Water, eight at the Canal Zone, Spurn, five at Filey Dams, two at North Cave and others along the River Hull. For the first time this century, a pair bred at Flamborough. Three migrants were noted in September at Filey and 18 at Flamborough, with up to six at Spurn that month, and the last was at Flamborough on 14th October.
VC 62 At Wykeham lakes breeding pairs were up on recent years, totalling 34 pairs, with 45 pairs also located in the Carrs region.
VC 63 First returning bird was back at Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 22nd April with the last sighting 7th October. A partial breeding survey suggested little variation to last full survey which estimated population of 350 pairs. Recorded between 30th April and 17th September at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB where 60 males held territory. Birds began to arrive in numbers from mid-April onwards with the first at Wintersett Res on 22nd. A minimum of 160 birds were on territory, with 40 at Pugneys CP, 52 at Wintersett Res and Anglers CP, 20 at Fairburn Ings RSPB, and approximately 48 pairs in the Swillington Ings area where numbers continue to increase as more habitat becomes available. In the Calderdale area numbers continue to decline with only two to four pairs attempting to breed. A late bird was at Wintersett on 6th October.
VC 64 First recorded at Staveley NR on 23rd April, Hay-a-Park on 24th with six at Staveley NR on 9th May, Linton on 17th May and Hay-a-Park on 21st, but late in the Bradford area with the first at Silsden on 28th May. Bred at Otley Wetland. No reports from elsewhere but the number of singing birds from sites mentioned would indicate a reasonable breeding population. Passage birds at Farnham GP on 11th August and 17th September with the last at Staveley NR on 24th.
VC 65 A pair colonised the new reedbed at Flask's Lake and fledged at least two young.

BOOTED WARBLER *Hippolais caligata* A 0,0,0,0,1
Rare migrant; 15 previous records

Breeds as close as Estonia, and migrates in a south-easterly direction to winter on the Indian sub-continent, with reverse migration probably explaining our autumn records. Last recorded in 2000.
VC 62 One was found late morning behind the Marine Drive wall, at the base of Castle Cliffs on 10th September (NWA: JM: SWi *et al.*). It was present until late afternoon at least, showing well at times, in generally poor and wet weather. The second record for the site.

ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina* A 4,25,7,10,10
Scarce coastal passage migrant, more common in autumn

This species breeds from Norway east through central and northern Europe to western Siberia, and winters in sub-Saharan Africa. First-winter birds start to appear in early August and passage is usually over by mid-September. Nationally one in seven records is in spring.
VC 61 There were no spring records. The first of the autumn was at Spurn on 18th August when it was trapped and ringed at the Warren (SW *et al.*). Also at Spurn, one was found at the Point on 19th August (AAH) and another was trapped and ringed at the Warren on 21st August (AAH *et al.*). One was in the Bay Brambles at Flamborough on 29th August (IM). In September one was found in Kilnsea on 5th (PC) and was also seen later in the day in the Crown and Anchor car park; one was at Long Lane, Filey on 6th (JM: SW *et al.*), one at Flamborough on 7th (PAL) and another on Carr Naze, Filey on 9th (JHo). Also on 9th, an elusive bird was at the Point at Spurn to 12th (DV *et al.*), and what was possibly the same bird was there on 17th and 18th (GT *et al.*). One was in Old Fall at Flamborough on 11th and 12th September (PAL: JBL).

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla* A
Common breeding summer visitor/passage migrant; scarce wintering species
BBS 82/166: 95% (52) increase 1994-2005, 17% (2) increase 2004-5

Breeds throughout most of Europe. The significant increase appears to be continuing as recent mild winters have encouraged wintering in Britain and northern Europe and early return migration.
VC 61 Wintering birds were in gardens in Cherry Burton and Kew Villa Kilnsea in January and Cottingham in December. The first migrant was noted from 31st March at Spurn, where the spring bird/day total was 108. The Tophill Low BBS found 34-35 pairs, up from 29 in 2004. The first noteworthy arrival in autumn was 15 at Spurn on 12th September, with a maximum count of 35 on 15th October. Low singles were seen through to late December. The autumn bird/day total was 477. A small mid-October influx included 16 at Filey on 15th, 14 on 16th and a peak of 18 on 17th.
VC 62 None were found wintering in the Scarborough region in either winter period, but it remains a common breeding bird. A female was at Saltburn on 12th March and a male at Kirklevington on 18th and 27th March. Autumn passage was light between 11th and 20th September, slightly better between 12th and 19th October,

with a peak of 12 birds at Long Nab on 17th October. Six were trapped at Skelton Castle between 21st November and 13th December.
VC 63 One was at Fixby on 1st January. An early bird at Elland GP on 19th and 20th March may well have been an over-wintering individual, with the main arrival occurring in early April. Potteric Carr's first was on 29th March and there were 13 singing males on 2nd May. Juveniles were seen in the company of adults between July and early September. Eighty-six males singing in the Wintersett area was the highest number reported with 20 at Fairburn Ings RSPB, 18 at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB, 12 at Woodlesford, ten at Thorne Moors, ten in Temple Newsome and nine at Pugneys CP. Potteric's last autumn bird was seen on 16th October though a wintering bird was recorded on 27th December. Singles were reported at Fairburn Ings RSPB on 18th and 21st November and one was at Fixby from 26th November to 31st December, when two birds were seen.
VC 64 Early winter records of singles were at Harrogate and Menston on 1st January, Ben Rhydding on 9th, Bewerley on 13th, Menston on 27th and 9th February, Burley on 21st February, a male and female at Menston and a female at Bewerley on 1st March. The first migrant was considered to be a male at Farnham GP on 28th March, then birds at Staveley NR on 29th, Hay-a-Park on 31st and Thornton and Bradley on 3rd April. Five pairs bred at Hay-a-Park, two pairs at Pool Mill, probably bred at Stocksbridge and possibly in the Lower Washburn Valley and Burley with juveniles seen at Gallows Hill, Hallas Bridge, and Valley of Desolation. Late winter birds were at Addingham on 21st October and Killinghall Moor on 30th, Otley Wetland on 10th, Harrogate on 15th, a male at Harlow Carr Gardens on 20th, Addingham from 23rd to 28th, a male at Ben Rhydding on 5th December, a female at Sharow from 2nd to 8th, also one at Knaresborough from 17th to year end, a female at Menston on 21st, and one at Bingley from 25th to 28th with a male at Ilkley on 31st.
VC 65 Common summer visitor: six singing males were at Nosterfield NR on 15th May and 172 were ringed at Catterick. A female was at High Batts NR on 6th November.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin* A
Common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 20/166

A summer visitor from Africa which breeds throughout most of Europe in suitable habitat.
VC 61 Widespread but sparsely distributed. Three on 30th April at Spurn were the first to arrive. Eight breeding pairs were counted at Tophill Low (three in 2004 and 14 in 2003). Failed to breed at Flamborough, where 12 spring records in May, and 19 in autumn, all but one in September up to 11th. Just two records at Filey until two on 9th September, with the peak daily count six on 10th September followed by two on 13th and three on 17th September. Considered to be a very poor autumn for this species at Spurn, with just 124 bird/days logged. The first returning bird appeared on 6th August, September produced 10 on 10th, 17 on 11th, and 30 on 12th; otherwise just counts of one to five. Five singles were seen at Spurn during October with the last being recorded on 17th.
VC 62 There was one very early bird at Wykeham Lakes on 7th April. Breeds widely in the forests and the wooded areas of The Carrs. There was a late record of a single at Stile Scrub, Jackson's Bay on the 15th October.
VC 63 The first arrival was at Marley SW on 16th April followed by Potteric Carr where two birds were singing on 17th April and there were 10 singing males by 2nd May. Seen at Wintersett Res on 23rd April where later in the spring 32 birds were on territory. Up to seven birds held territory at Fairburn Ings RSPB, eight at Elland GP and four at Old Moor Wetlands, with occasional sightings at Swillington Ings. Thorne Moors NNR's first singing bird was on 27th April and breeding was confirmed. The last bird was recorded at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB on 25th September.
VC 64 First was at Staveley NR on 24th. Seven singing birds were between Norwood Bottom and Dob Park Bridge in May. Four pairs bred at Hay-a-Park, 'loads' at Denton Village with food carrying noted at Pool Mill and Stocksbridge. The last bird was at Farnham GP on 4th September.
VC 65 In the Catterick area 40 birds were ringed. A bird ringed in the Catterick area on 25th July 2004 was controlled at Zandvoort Duinen, Noord-Holland on 30 April 2005, a distance of 464 km.

BARRED WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria* A 29,24,12,16,26
Scarce coastal passage migrant, very rare in spring

Breeds through central and eastern Europe to western Siberia, wintering in East Africa. It leaves the breeding grounds early, with the first Yorkshire autumn records, of juveniles, commencing in late July. Nationally only one in about 280 occurs in spring, and Yorkshire has had only one, in 1998.
VC 61 It was a good autumn with at least 24 individuals recorded, including twelve at Spurn, six at Flamborough and three at Filey. Locations refer to Spurn unless otherwise stated. The first was seen briefly at Spurn on 18th August (AAH) then three were found on 21st: one in Top Scrub, Filey (JS *et al.*), one at Canal Scrape (DV) and the other at the Narrows which stayed until 23rd (SDW *et al.*). In September, one was at Wire Dump on 4th (AR) and another was at the Point on the same date (MH), two were trapped at Buckton on 6th (JG: MST) and different singles were at Flamborough on 7th, 9th and 10th. The 11th produced three more birds: one at Filey Tip (JMT *et al.*), one at Wire Dump (DRM) and one in Canal Hedge (RJS). Two more singles were found on 12th at Flamborough at Northcliffe and in Sykes Plantation (AMA: PAL), and two at Spurn, at the Point (AR) and at the Warren (AAH). One was found in Canal Hedge on 18th (JC) and it was seen again on 19th. One was present in Old Fall, Flamborough from 22nd to 27th and a second bird was present on 23rd (BR: PAL *et al.*). One was found near Spurn Lighthouse on 27th (BH). In October, one was found at

the Point on 1st (GF) and was trapped and ringed on 3rd then seen again on 5th, 9th and 10th; one was in the Top Scrub, Filey on 5th October (VT *et al.*) and the same individual trapped on 6th and 7th October, and one was by Easington Gas Terminal between 8th and 10th.
VC 62 One was in Style Scrub at Jackson's Bay on 10th September (MF) and a first-winter was at South Gare from 15th to 18th October.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca* A
Fairly common to uncommon breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 5/166

The nominate form is a summer visitor to Western Europe, migrating to the south-east to its wintering grounds in northeast and central Africa. Found in very few BBS squares, mainly in the east of the county.
VC 61 Widely reported from 23rd April, but the earliest was a male in the Sheep Field at Spurn on 17th April equaling the earliest Spurn record. Breeds in hedges and hawthorns such as along the Hornsea Rail Trail where nine breeding pairs, in the Filey area where five pairs and at Spurn where four pairs. Eight on 1st May was the highest Flamborough count, and four pairs bred there. The last at Spurn was on October 17th.
VC 62 Recorded from 29th April to 23rd October. A late bird at Cliff Top House, Long Nab on the 15th to 17th October showed some characters of an eastern race bird (NWA).
VC 63 A fairly typical date of 21st April saw the arrival of the first birds at Fairburn Ings and Blacktoft Sands RSPB, where up to two were seen in May but not subsequently. At Old Moor Wetlands RSPB recorded between 24th April and 1st September with seven males holding territory. Singing males were at Potteric Carr and Thorne Moors NNR in April, May and June.Twelve birds were on territory in the Wintersett area, two at Pugneys CP, two at Lowther Lake, present at Cononley SW on 9th July, and five at Fairburn Ings RSPB where the last bird was noted on 18th September.
VC 64 A scarce bird in this VC, with the only records being singles at Hay-a-Park on 19th April, Burley 7th May, Lindley Wood Res on 5th June, three juveniles at Low Moor on 1st August, and one at Farnham GP on 11th September.
VC 65 A single at Nosterfield NR on 23rd April was the first, with one at High Batts NR on 7th September the last. Breeding was confirmed at the former site.

COMMON WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis* A
Fairly common to common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant
BBS 70/166: 27% (25) increase 1994-2005, -23% (-5) decrease 2004-5

The western European nominate form winters in the vulnerable semi-arid northern Sahel zone. After a steady increase since the low of 1998, this year saw a small apparent reversal of fortunes, although the population appears to be still increasing in the east.
VC 61 First noted at Filey on 19th April. Ten pairs bred at Tophill Low (four in 2004), 10 pairs on Watton Carr and 54 pairs along Hornsea Rail Trail, but a poor year at PHENR where did not breed. By 25th May it was estimated that there were 50 pairs in the Filey area. Described as an abundant breeder at Flamborough, with a peak of 26 on 14th May. At Spurn, 49 pairs bred - the same as in 2004. A few notable influxes occurred at Spurn in September when 25 were seen on 6th and 23 on 9th. A late bird was at Filey on 16th October.
VC 62 A common summer visitor recorded between 20th April and 23rd September.
VC 63 The first for the year was at Swillington Ings on 10th April with a general influx into the area around the 20th. The Wintersett area recorded 52 birds on territory the lowest number since 1993. Ten to twelve birds held territory at Rodley NR, 27 at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB, 20 at Southfield Res, 12 in the Halifax area, 12 at Blacktoft Sands RSPB, 11 at Pugneys CP, and a minimum of 40 at Swillington Ings. Breeding was also confirmed on Elland GP and Thorne Moors NNR. Birds also bred at other sites where suitable habitat was available including Fairburn Ings RSPB where the last bird for the year was seen on 23rd September.
VC 64 Common but widespread with the first at Otley on 23rd April, Staveley NR on 24th, Hay-a-Park on 29th when four at Bilton. Five pairs bred at Hay-a-Park and elsewhere at Gallows Hill and Stocksbridge. Last birds were at Otley on 11th September and Staveley NR and Farnham GP on 16th.
VC 65 In the Catterick area 38 adults and 18 *pulli* were ringed. Nine singing birds were in the Nosterfield NR recording area on 15th May.

DARTFORD WARBLER *Sylvia undata* A 0,0,0,0,3
Amber list: vagrant; 2 previous records, in 1977 and 1989.

Breeds in southern England in increasing numbers, and from the western Mediterranean east to Italy.
VC 63 One, probably an immature male was flushed from the ridge and furrow area of St Aidans, Swillington Ings on 11th February (AJR). It remained in the area until at least the 26th. Unfortunately the bird was on private land and the landowners refused permission for general access to be granted. An adult was near Sheffield at Blacka Moor, South Yorkshire, between 4th and 11th June (RDH *et al.*). This is just outside the VC boundary for VC 63.
VC 64 One was on Rombald's Moor on 8th June (CGB).

Dartford Warbler

SUBALPINE WARBLER *Sylvia cantillans* **A** 3,1,1,0,1

Rare migrant, almost annual in recent years; 34 previous records

Breeds through the Mediterranean from NW Africa to western Turkey and Israel, and winters in North Africa. There are four races, two of which have been recorded in Yorkshire.

VC 61 An elusive first-summer male was seen briefly at the Crown & Anchor, Spurn on 1st May (DB: LJD).

GREENISH WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochiloides* **A** 0,4,2,2,15

Rare migrant to the coast, mostly in autumn; 47 previous records

The European and W Siberian race *P. t. viridanus* has expanded westwards and breeds sporadically in Scandinavia and Germany, and from the Baltic countries east to W Siberia. It winters in the Indian subcontinent. This was a record year for the species in the county, with 15 accepted records and possibly 18 birds present, easily surpassing the previous record of five birds in both 1987 and 1995.

VC 61 A harbinger of things to come was a superb singing male on 27th May in Old Fall Plantation at Flamborough Head (TD *et al.*). The first of the autumn was one at Spurn briefly by the Bluebell on 31st August (ICW: SJW). The next was found in Top Scrub in Filey CP on 3rd September (JMT *et al.*), remaining there to 5th. Also in September, birds were recorded at Flamborough Head on 5th September (RBa), in Old Fall from 6th to 8th (FXM *et al.*), in the Fog Station garden on 10th (AMH: GW *et al.*), and two birds on 11th, one seen for one day (FXM: IS) and one staying from 11th to 13th (JBL: FXM). One was found along the canal at Spurn on 10th (AJS: MGS *et al.*) before it moved to The Warren, lingering to 12th. Also on 10th, one found near Beacon Ponds, Kilnsea (GP: MJP *et al.*) was still present the next day, and another was found at Spurn on North Hedge on 10th (GF: AR: SRo *et al.*) remaining in the North Hedge/Beacon Lane area until 13th.

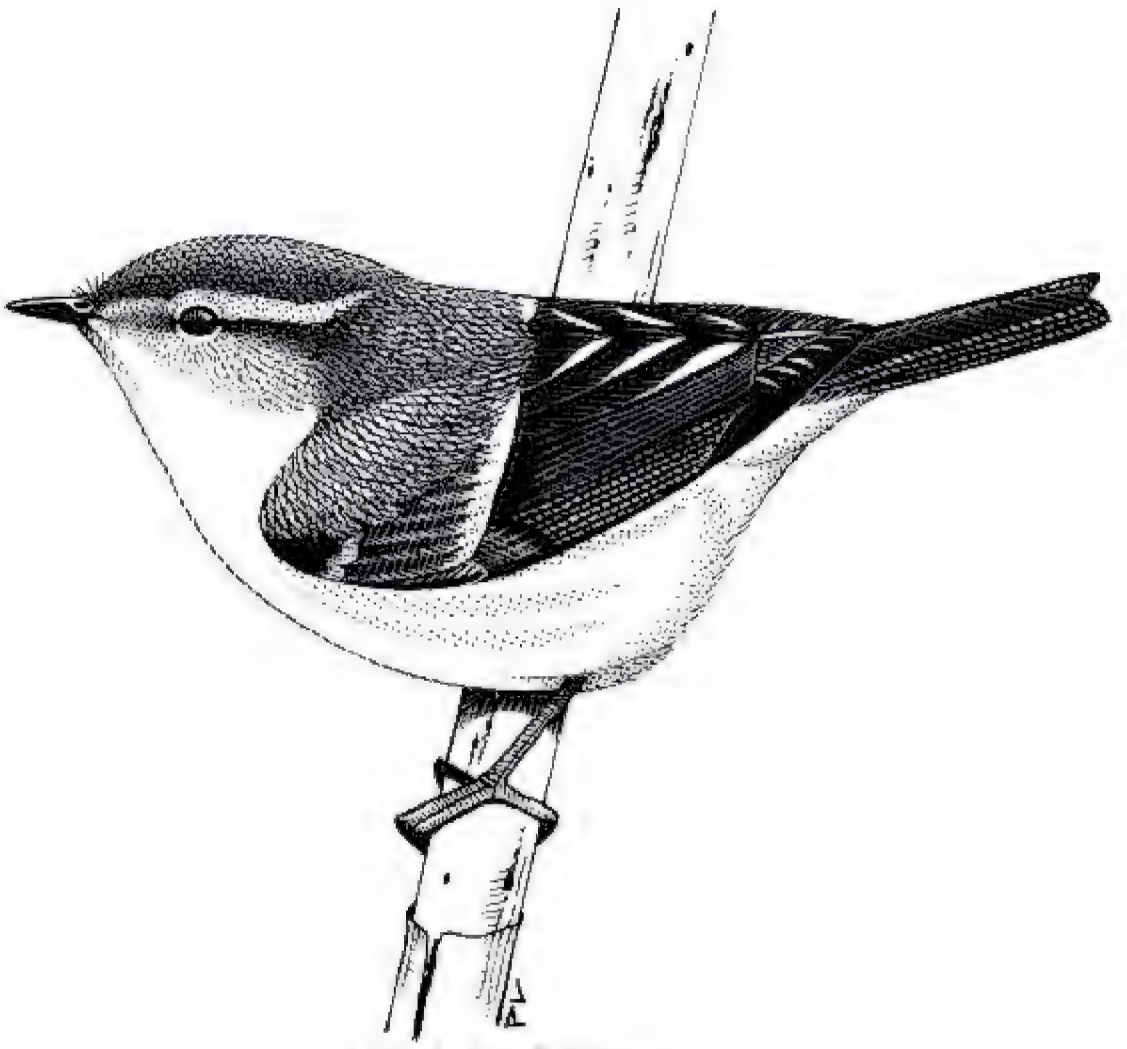
VC 62 One was found on Scarborough Castle Hill, located on call, on 9th September, remaining to 12th (NWA *et al.*) and the same observer found another on 11th in a sycamore near the tea rooms at Ravenscar, this bird proving very elusive (NWA). Two were found on South Gare on 10th September (NAP *et al.*).

PALLAS'S LEAF WARBLER *Phylloscopus proregulus* **A** 14,2,8,75,56,12
Scarce autumn migrant; very rare inland; 361 previous records

Breeds from south central Siberia east to the Sea of Okhotsk, and winters in SE Asia. It mostly occurs in October, with a few records into November.
VC 61 Two were found at Flamborough on October 15th, in North and South Landings (AMA: PG: GS). The only sighting at Filey was in the Top Scrub on 16th October (JS *et al.*) which was later trapped and ringed and the same date saw Spurn's only record, one found at Pallas's Pond (LJD: TMc) where it showed well for most of the day. On 17th there were two at Flamborough, one at South Landing possibly the same, and a new bird in Old Fall (GRB: PAL: IM), with another in Old Fall from 28th October to 1st November (AMA) and one at South Landing on 1st November (PAL).
VC 62 Four birds were seen in October. The first was at Saltburn from 15th to 17th (DAM), with another at South Gare on 16th and 17th (APF *et al.*). One turned up along with many Goldcrests on the South side of Castle Hill Scarborough on 16th October and presumably the same bird was seen again on 19th. One was seen on Hood Lane, Cloughton on 17th October (NWA).

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus* **A** 31,29,117,50,245
Scarce autumn passage migrant; rare inland and in spring

This tiny and delicate migrant breeds throughout Russia east of the Urals and winters from Nepal east to SE Asia. It mostly occurs from mid September to early November, and since the mid-1980's numbers have significantly increased. This was another excellent year.
VC 61 As many as 165 may have been recorded. The first were two at Flamborough on the early date of 11th September, followed by Spurn's first two on 12th September. At Spurn, the next one was at Kew Villa on 4th October, then five more arrived on 5th and had increased to an incredible 19 by 6th, smashing the previous day-record of seven set in 2000. Birds were then seen regularly during October until the last one on 26th. There were no records in November. A total of at least 33 individuals was logged totalling 78 bird/ days. Flamborough's October included one on 4th, six on 5th including four in Old Fall, but a massive 28 were counted on 7th, diminishing to 7 on 8th and three on 10th. New birds were noted on 12th and 13th, with three on 14th and 15 on 15th, with 11 present on 16th and 10 on 17th. Lingerers noted were one on 18th, two on 19th and one on 25th. At Filey, 22 were recorded – three arrived on 5th October, one staying to 11th, another on 6th (remaining in the area until 9th), and two more arrived on 9th, one on 11th and another on 12th, the latter individual trapped and ringed next day. Another turned up on 14th, while Filey appeared awash with Yellow-broweds on 15th: eleven birds were in the area, including an influx of eight new in. Another new one arrived on 16th and one was trapped in Top Scrub on 19th (the latter present until 22nd). Three arrived on 31st, one in the Top Scrub remaining until the 2nd November, when it was also trapped. Elsewhere, a minimum of 25 were noted in the Easington/Kilnsea area, five on 6th, nine on 14th and 16 on 15-16th, although some of these may have been included in Spurn figures. Three were in sycamores at Buckton on 6th, three at Holmpton on 9th, one at Grimston on 10th, one at Bempton on 14th, two at Buckton on 15th, three at Atwick on 15th October, with one to 17th, four new birds at Buckton, four in Easington village, 10 at Holmpton and one at Welwick, all on 15th, two new birds caught at Buckton on 16th (one staying to 18th), one at Aldbrough on 17th, one at Bempton on 18th, two at Grimston on 19th and one at east Newton on 22nd.
VC 62 A very good year with a bare minimum of 80 birds, all in October. The first bird was present in Hawsker Bottoms on 4th, with two present from the 5th to the 7th, one in Jackson's Bay, Scarborough and another on the south side of Castle Hill. Five were found on 6th, three at South Gare (to 8th), one at Hawsker and another at Robin Hoods Bay. The next turned up at Hundale, Long Nab on the 8th. On Castle Hill a new bird appeared on the 11th, with two present the next day, a minimum of three on the 15th, birds lingering, and two still present on the 19th. One was at Hummersea on 12th. Arrivals on 14th included two at Boulby, two at Brotton and two at Saltburn and one at South Gare. The 15th saw the new arrival of a minimum of 35 birds, with seven now at Hummersea with 15 scattered elsewhere along the south Cleveland coast. Five were found at Saltwick Nab, three in Raindale at Ness Point, two in Robin Hoods Bay, one in Scarborough town centre, and another three found at Hawsker Bottoms and two at Kettleness Point, while at Long Nab, one was along the disused railway and one at Cliff Top house from 15th to 17th. Another dozen new birds arrived on the south Cleveland coast from 16th to 19th. Nine remained in the Whitby area on 16th (five at Hawsker of which two were presumably new, two at Ness Point, one at Saltwick Nab and one Kettleness Point). Around Cloughton Wyke there was one in Sycarham Wood 15th to 17th and close by a single bird turned up on Hood Lane on the 17th, with two there 19th to 20th and one still present on the 21st. One was seen in Hayburn Wyke on 16th, and possibly a new bird was at Saltwick Nab on 18th and 19th. Late stragglers included one at South Gare on 27th, two at Brotton, one in Cloughton Woods and one in Whitby, all on 29th.
VC 63 Following the large influx on the east coast two birds were located inland in October one at Scammonden Dam on 11th (JB) and one spent two days at Swillington Ings from 12th to 13th (MB)



Hume's (Leaf) Warbler

HUME'S (LEAF) WARBLER *Phylloscopus humei* **A** 0,0,7,0,1
Rare migrant; 16 previous records

Breeds from the Sayan and Altai mountains south to the north-west Himalayas, arriving as a coastal migrant later than the preceding species, having traveled further.
VC 61 A remarkably late bird was found in Church Ravine, Filey on 7th December, remaining to 30th (SC: JH: CCT *et al.*).

RADDE'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus schwarzi* **A** 2,0,2,1,2
Rare coastal migrant in autumn; 36 previous records

This south Siberian species winters in SE Asia.
VC 61 One found at Sammy's Point Easington on 8th October performed well to 9th (RD: LJD: HH *et al.*).
VC 62 One was found, initially on call, on South Gare on 16th October (CD *et al.*).

DUSKY WARBLER *Phylloscopus fuscatus* **A** 3,0,3,1,2
Rare coastal migrant in autumn; 30 previous records

This species breeds in through Siberia to north-east China wintering from Nepal to south China. It is usually a late autumn visitor.
VC 61 One was found at Spurn in the Tank Ditch (PC: EW *et al.*) on 7th October and slowly made its way down to the Point, where it was trapped and ringed the next morning. It then proved to be very elusive in the Point area until the 16th.
VC 62 One seen at Boulby Cliffs from 19th to 22nd October (SF: DAM: RCT *et al.*), was trapped on 21st.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* **A**
Amber list: uncommon and local breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 3/166

The breeding range of this trans-Saharan migrant is restricted to woodlands on the upland margins extending up to the Arctic Circle, with Britain's nationally declining population on the western edge of its breeding range. Declining locally.
VC 61 One was singing at Eastrington on 30th April, one trapped and ringed at Spurn on 3rd May and one was at Flamborough Head on 19th June. In autumn, singles were recorded at Spurn on 12th, 21st and 31st August, Sammy's Point on 11th September and Filey on 11th and a different individual on 12th September.
VC 62 Reported from Slingsby, Lower Bransdale and Hawnby from 27th May. There were no records this year from the Scarborough forest breeding sites, including Bridestones at Dalby forest, which has been the

most reliable site in the district for many years. An autumn migrant was located at Hundale, Long Nab on the 9th September.
VC 63 The first were two in Broomhead Wood and one in Hebers Ghyll on 24th April. One singing on Hatfield Moors on 3rd May was presumably a migrant. Has declined in numbers over recent years with only nine records from the main Halifax area. The first was at East Lee Lane at Todmorden on 8th May, with three at Jumble Hole Clough on 29th May, and the last was at Buckley Wood on 26th June.
VC 64 Two pairs bred at Dob Park Wood and reported during the breeding season from Dacre Banks, Heber's Ghyll, Old Spring Wood, Skrikes Wood, St Ives and Strid Wood. First at Guisecliffe on 25th April and Strid Wood on 26th. Rarely reported away from breeding areas but juveniles were reported from Ellington Banks, Ripon on 23rd July and Low Moor on 14th August.
VC 65 Breeds in small numbers in suitable habitat primarily upland Oak woods. A passage bird was at Nosterfield NR on 1st May

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita* A

Common breeding summer visitor; scarce in winter
BBS 63/166: 30% (28) increase 1994-2005, -18% (-28) decrease 2004-5

A decrease in the density of the breeding population this year similar to that shown by many migrants, although the longer term trend has been comparably favourable and more similar to another shorter distance migrant, *Sylvia atricapilla*. It is now much more widespread in the east than in 1997. Winters in Western Europe, the Mediterranean and North Africa.
VC 61 Breeds in suitable woodland, including small stands such as at Welton Waters where two pairs. One wintered and 12 pairs bred at Tophill Low, down slightly on 12 the previous year. Two seen in Filey on 31st January and one at Filey Dams on 6th February, with possibly the first spring arrivals turning up at the Dams on 18th March. Noted at Flamborough on 22nd January and 19th February, with migration commencing on 19th March. Peak passage of 28 on 7th October, and three December records. Numbers peaked at Spurn in the last few days of March and the first part of April when double figures were counted with a maximum of 14 on 31st March. A total of 358 bird/days was logged for the spring. Small numbers were seen from late August to early October, then double figures on many dates in October, including high counts of 19 on 16th, 27 on 17th, and 16 on 18th. Single figures were then logged to the last two on 4th December. The autumn bird/day total was a poor 319. One at Buckton on 15th and 16th October, trapped and photographed on 16th, showed characters of *abietinus* race and late birds included three in Church Ravine, Filey on 7th December, with one remaining to 13th also showing characteristics associated with the *abietinus* race.
VC 62 It remains a widespread breeding bird of mature woodland. One was at Coatham Marsh on 29th January. Recorded then from 19th March to 19th December, with one in Kirklevington on 19th December and a Scandinavian race bird on 18th and 19th December at Burton Riggs NR.
VC 63 Wintering birds have become a regular event in recent years. One was at Fairburn Ings RSPB throughout January to 6th February; one was at Rodley NR on various dates from 22nd January to 26th February and one at Old Moor Wetlands on 15th February, where the first migrant was seen on 15th March. First noted on 18th March at Potteric Carr, with 19 singing there by 29th March. During April 21 males held territory at Old Moor, with 44 birds on territory in the Wintersett area, four at Pugneys CP, and 14 at Fairburn Ings RSPB. On Thorne Moors NNR at least 15 were present between April and June and a maximum of 22+ on 2nd May. Good numbers were also reported from the Swillington area and numerous sites held singing birds in the Halifax area. At Blacktoft Sands RSPB first recorded in spring on 21st March then up to three daily until 31st March. In autumn, regular from 10th August until early October with a peak of five on 20th September. Three were at Denholme Clough on 2nd October, but birds lingered into November with one at Rodley NR on 13th, two at Swillington Ings on 21st, one at Blacktoft on 29th and one at Potteric Carr on 30th. In December, one was seen on two dates at Potteric Carr, one to two were seen throughout December at Pugneys CP and probably six at Swillington Ings. Also in December, singles were recorded at Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 13th, Rodley NR on 24th and at Fairburn Ings RSPB on various dates with two on 28th.
VC 64 Singles were at Stocksbridge in January, Killinghall Moor on 6th February and High Royd SF on 27th and Timble Ings on 3rd March. First spring arrivals were singing birds at Farnham GP, Harrogate, Knotford Nook and Staveley NR on 19th March. Eleven were in the Nidd Gorge on 24th, five at Littlethorpe on 25th, six at Farnham GP on 26th with 20 along the Nidd Gorge and nine at St Ives on 31st and 23rd April with at least 11 singing males in the Washburn Valley. In autumn six at John O'Gaunt's Res on 13th September, ten at Ellington Banks on 2nd October and two at Gloversha w. Other October birds were at Hay-a-Park, Otley Wetland, Bellflask Quarry, Addingham, two at Farnham GP, Ben Rhydding, and at Killinghall Moor on 30th, probably the last migrant. Late records were from Staveley NR on 16th November, two from 19th to 21st and one on 18th December; singles at Swinsty Res on 18th November; Farnham GP on 20th November and 10th and 11th December and Otley Wetland on 10th. Only confirmed breeding records came from Knotford Nook and St Ives.
VC 65 A common summer visitor with a few wintering birds. One was singing at Nosterfield NR on 26th February, with a late bird at Flask's Lake on 12th November.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus* **A**
Amber list: common to abundant breeding summer visitor and passage migrant
BBS 85/166: 17% (-29) increase 1994-2005, -19% (4) decrease 2004-5

The populations of this species, the commonest trans-Saharan passerine migrant, have been declining in Europe and in southern and eastern England, and this year a decrease was particularly noted in south-east Yorkshire.
VC 61 The first were at PHENR on 25th March and on the coast at Filey and Spurn on 1st April. 43 pairs bred at Tophill Low (down from 53 in 2004). The Hornsea Rail Trail found 35 pairs. Two were at Flamborough on 2nd April, with a peak of 68 on 1st May. Autumn passage there commenced on 27th August with 42 on 11th September and a late bird on 9th October. There were very few good spring counts at Spurn, the highest being 43 on 30th April, 64 on 1st, and 37 on 3rd May. Only 339 bird/days were recorded. Highest autumn counts were 27 on 5th August and 43 on 11th September. One to three were seen on eight dates in October with the last record of the year on 29th. The autumn day/total was 676. At Filey there was an influx on 1st May of 44 birds, while in autumn, a maximum of 12 were observed on 9th September, with singles seen in the area on most days throughout October and the final record for the year is of five on 2nd November.
VC 62 It remains a fairly common sight and sound in the region in the summer months. The first was seen on 1st April in Guisborough, and the last on 22nd September at Hummersea, followed by an isolated record at Long Nab on 15th October.
VC 63 The first for the year was a very early bird singing in Sheffield on 18th March, followed by birds at Fairburn Ings RSPB on 23rd March with one at Denaby Ings on 24th. The bulk of the population did not arrive until early April, when at least 30 birds were on territory at Fairburn. Pugneys CP reported a decline in numbers with only 20 singing birds. Old Moor Wetlands RSPB recorded birds between 29th March and 10th September and 48 territories were counted in May. High counts on Thorne Moors NNR were 50+ on 16th April and 100+ on 2nd May, while 26 were counted at Potteric Carr on the latter date. At Blacktoft Sands RSPB there was a spring peak of six on 18th April and four pairs remained to breed. Blacktoft's autumn peak was eight on 10th August. Early movements included 22 at Denholme Clough on 23rd July. After one at Potteric Carr on 13th September, one at Fixby on 9th October was the last for the year.
VC 64 First returning birds were singles at Snaygill SW on 3rd April, eight at Bastow Woods on 11th April, one at Hay-a-Park GP on 23rd, Farnham GP on 26th, Fishergreen, Ripon on 28th, Nicholson's Lagoons on 29th and Ripon Parks and Farnham GP on 31st. Fourteen were in song at Hay-a-Park on 24th April and 15 on 8th May and 12 were at Lower Barden Res on also 24th. In late July, 16 were noted Barden and Paul Clough. There were five September records: one at Burley-in-Wharfedale on 15th, Snaygill SW on 17th, two at Darley on 22nd, one at Farnham GP on 23rd and the last being two at Staveley NR on 29th. A juvenile ringed near Bishop Monkton on 26th July 1999 was re-trapped at Ellington Banks on 2nd May 2005. Assuming that it had wintered in East Africa, making the trip six times, it would have travelled 80,000 km (50,000 miles).
VC 65 Common summer visitor. Twelve were singing at Nosterfield NR on 15th May and 309 were ringed at Catterick. A bird at Foxglove Covert on 23 June 2002 was found dead in Hampstead London on 22nd April 2005.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus* **A**
Amber list: fairly common resident and passage migrant. BBS 18/166

Breeds from Britain east to Japan, northern birds are migratory responding to cold weather and breeding success, and this year saw a remarkable influx of these featherweights.
VC 61 Breeds in suitable habitat throughout. At Tophill Low, 11 pairs bred (up from 6 in 2004). Some passage was noted on the coast in March and early April, with a peak of 42 at Flamborough on 19th March 76 at Spurn on 29th March. Massive numbers were associated with the big October fall, with 540 on 14th, 9500 on 15th October, 8000 on 16th and 1450 on 18th. Similarly at Filey, the 14th to 19th October saw a large influx with 210 on 14th, 2000 on15th, 520 on 16th and 300 on 17th. 942 were ringed. At Spurn, a count of 264 was logged on 14th, 1000+ on 15th, 1500+ on 16th and 17th. These were conservative estimates and probably many more moved through the area.
VC 62 A widespread breeding bird in the forests, migrants are noted along the coast in spring and more noticeably in late autumn. A large fall occurred mid-October with peak site counts of 150 on Castle Hill, Scarborough on 14th October, rising to 500 the next day, and 375 at Boulby on 17th.
VC 63 There were a few birds at most locations in the first half of the year, the only exception being the Wintersett area with around 20 birds and 14 were at Thornton Moor Res on 27th March. Three birds were singing at three sites in the Wintersett area, and one was singing at Swillington Ings with birds present during the breeding season in the Halifax area, but no breeding was confirmed. A singing male was heard at Potteric Carr on 23rd June but no evidence of breeding was found. An influx occurred in October with 30 at Swillington Ings on 9th October and 20-30 for the remainder of the month and into November. Double figures were also recorded on four occasions between 18th September and 8th October from Doe Park-Denholme Clough area. At Old Moor Wetlands there was a peak count of 25 on the 21st October. On 27th November 40 were at Haw Park, Wintersett and 20 were at Luddenden Dean on 9th September and 1st December. The peak count at Potteric was 14 on 17th November.
VC 64 No large counts were received, with none over 30 birds. Twenty were at Barden Scale on 13th January,

20 at Quarry Moor on 17th September, 12 at Staveley NR and 15 at Timble Ings on 9th October, 12 at St Ives on 17th increasing to 30 on 26th, 20 at Timble Ings on 19th and 12 at Shipley Glen on 26th December.
VC 65 A fairly common resident supplemented by an influx from the continent in autumn.

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapilla* A 27,160,86,76,30

Amber list: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant: bred in 1995 and 2001

This species breeds mostly in southern England, with north European populations migrating south-westwards to winter around the Mediterranean and providing a double passage on the coast.
VC 61 The first was at Spurn at the Narrows on 19th March, followed by two at the Point on 23rd March and one in Canal Hedge from 1st to 3rd April. The only other spring records were singles at Spurn on 22nd April and Flamborough on 12th and 16th May. It was a very quiet autumn in comparison to the last few years. The only records, singles unless stated, were in October as follows: Filey CP on 6th, Filey Dams and Sammy's Point, Easington on 14th; Holmpton and Spurn on 15th; Flamborough on 16th and 17th, Bempton and Spurn on 17th and Flamborough 17th to 18th; two at Spurn on 18th; three at Spurn on 19th, 22nd, and 23rd and one in Easington on 21st.
VC 62 Singles were at both Boulby and South Gare on 17th October and one in Raindale Ravine, Robin Hoods Bay on 19th October.
VC 63 A male was on Thorne Moors NNR on 1st April (WHP). In the Autumn singles were at Thorpe Marsh on 24th October and in November at Rother Valley CP on 8th, Haw Park, Wintersett on 13th and Pontefract Park on 27th.
VC 64 One was at Addingham on 9th January (DHM).

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata* A

Red list and UK BAP species: increasingly uncommon breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 13/166. Nationally declining, - 82% 1970-2005

Distributed across the western and central Palearctic, this long-distance trans-Saharan migrant is usually one of the last to arrive, in mid-May. Locally declining.
VC 61 First reported at Spurn on 27th April, it bred at Atwick, Burton Agnes (two pairs), Burton Constable, Wassand (two pairs) and Walkington. Did not breed at Flamborough, where about 30 passage birds noted between 18th May and 18th October, and there were 10 sightings at Filey between 20th May and 25th October. At Spurn, there were high counts of 10 on 19th and nine on 26th May, helping to boost the spring bird/day total to 52. It was an abysmal autumn for this species, with only 30 bird/days logged.
VC 62 A thinly spread summer visitor to the Scarborough area, with reports from seven sites and four pairs confirmed from 18th May. Also reported from five sites in south Cleveland. Less than ten autumn migrants were seen on the coast in September, the last on 13th September.
VC 63 Continues to decline throughout the VC with three pairs on breeding territory in the Halifax area: a pair attempted to breed at Blackmoorfoot Res and two broods of three juveniles each were seen at Wintersett. Two pairs bred in the Cononley area. There were two spring records at Fairburn Ings RSPB on 21st May and 12th June and two singles at Swillington Ings on 2nd and 31st August. One was seen at Potteric Carr on 16th May and another at Beal Carrs on 27th August but it was a poor year at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB with only one record of a single bird in Broomhill Park on the 30th of August. Two birds spent most of September at Fairburn Ings RSPB remaining until the 21st.
VC 64 First arrival was at Grass Wood on 4th May, six at Yokenthwaite on 6th, and at Follifoot, Harrogate area on 8th. Reported from most parts of the VC, with counts of 25 at Studley Park on 5th August consisting of three or four family parties, four at Stirton on 7th and six at Paul Clough on 8th with the last at Farnham GP on 16th September. Breeding was more prevalent in the Harrogate area with reports from most parts of the district. However in the Bradford area mostly confined to Bolton Abbey, where a bird seen carrying food on 6th September, at Howgill Wood, St Ives and Strid Wood. Bred at Ghaistrill's Strid, Grass Wood (two pairs) and Linton Falls in Wharfedale where population trends appear to be stable.
VC 65 A decreasing summer visitor. A brood was ringed at Catterick.

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula parva* A 15,29,18,26,10

Scarce coastal passage migrant, rare in spring

Breeds from Sweden eastwards almost to the Urals, and winters in the Indian subcontinent. Just over one in twenty records are in spring, with most records in Yorkshire from mid August to mid November.
VC 61 One was at North Landing, Flamborough on 10th September (DBy: SH), and two at Spurn on the same date, one at the Narrows (PF) and one at Post 38 (DV). On 11th, one was at Sykes Plantation, Flamborough (AMA), and one at Bempton stayed to 12th, when two more were found at Flamborough, in Bay Brambles and Booted Gully (PAL). There was then a gap until 9th October when one was found by the Lighthouse at Flamborough, remaining to 10th (PAL), with two found on 15th, one trapped at the Point, Spurn (KR) and one in Church Ravine, Filey that stayed to 19th (JH *et al.*).

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca* A

Increasingly uncommon and local breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. BBS 2/166

A summer migrant to the Western Palearctic from western Africa, the breeding range in the county is restricted to the west and north, usually associated with Sessile Oak, and is highly dependent on nest-boxes.

VC 61 At Flamborough, two on 1st May were the only spring birds. In autumn, noted between 21st August and 18th October, with 44 on 11th September. There was a similar pattern at Spurn, where only two spring records, one on 1st and two on 14th May. One on 19th June was unusual. Three on 17th August, the first ones to return, had increased to 12 the next day. Small numbers were then seen almost daily until 24th September, giving high counts of 20 on 4th and 10th and 25 on 11th September. A late bird was seen on 14th October bringing up an autumn bird/day total of 191. There were no spring records at Filey, where the first occurred on 21st August, when three were seen. The easterly winds at the beginning of September saw a steady influx of small numbers, but numbers peaked at 12 on 11th. The last record for the year occurred on 16th October, with a single at Parish Wood. Elsewhere, singles at Holmpton on 4th and 6th September and Bempton RSPB on 11th.

VC 62 The absence of summer records from the forests and well-wooded valleys in the Scarborough area probably owes (hopefully) more to a lack of coverage, than a complete lack of birds. Just one spring migrant, at South Gare on 30th April, and a handful in September, with late birds at Boulby on 14th and Hummersea on 14th and 15th October.

VC 63 A male was in the Rivelin Valley on 7th April, a female at Wharncliffe Side on 24th. In May, three were in Wyming Wood and one at Strines. The only other reports received were a female near a nest box at Hardcastle Crags on 5th June, a female at Ogden on 3rd July and three birds at Paul Clough on 17th August.

VC 64 An early arrival was at Dob Park on 12th April, five weeks before the next at Washburn valley on 1st May, 12 at Strid Wood on 2nd, two males at Harlow Carr Gardens on 3rd, Lower Grass Wood on 4th and Hebden on 9th. The provision of nest boxes has no doubt helped this species with breeding reports from Guisecliffe, Skrikes Wood and Summerbridge with the Dob Park/Snowden area having eight nests producing 54 young, Folly Hall Wood – ten nests, 43 young, Strid Wood – ten nests, 24 young and four young fledged at Swinsty Res. Singing males were also recorded in the breeding season from Hanging Wood, Hirst Wood, Low Wood, Middleton Woods and St Ives. The last was at Farnham GP on 16th September.

VC 65 A local summer visitor: six adults and 58 young were ringed in nest boxes in the Catterick area.

BEARDED TIT *Panurus biarmicus* A

Amber list: scarce and local resident breeder; occasional irruptive immigrant

Nationally increasing, but only recorded breeding at Blacktoft Sands RSPB this year.

VC 61 A female was at PHENR on 25th March. At Faxfleet, four were seen on 11th August and again on 4th December, a female was at Holmpton on 29th October, and probably the same bird was at Spurn on 1st November. Also in November, one was at Filey on 2nd and two at Hornsea Mere on 7th.

VC 62 A male was at South Gare from 31st March to 2nd April. An unusual record was of two (one male) at Hood Lane, Cloughton, on the 30th October.

VC 63 At Blacktoft Sands RSPB a wintering population of around 200 birds was present in early part of the year. Interestingly between 21st March and 22nd April 2005, at least 30 birds in parties of between 6 and 20 were seen to be displaying strong eruptional behaviour, the first time such behaviour has been recorded at Blacktoft in spring. 70-80 pairs had an excellent breeding season producing between 292 and 405 young. First brood production was delayed considerably by very cold spring weather, although this seems to have being in part made up by an incredibly productive second and third brood period. Up to 200 birds were present over the winter period indicating good winter survival. As part of a study into productivity 104 birds were ringed in October in just 4 visits with only 7 birds re-trapped, indicating that the modest population estimates may be much lower than actual. One was at Potteric Carr on 2nd January (RJS: SMB) with probably the same bird also there on 9th.

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus* A

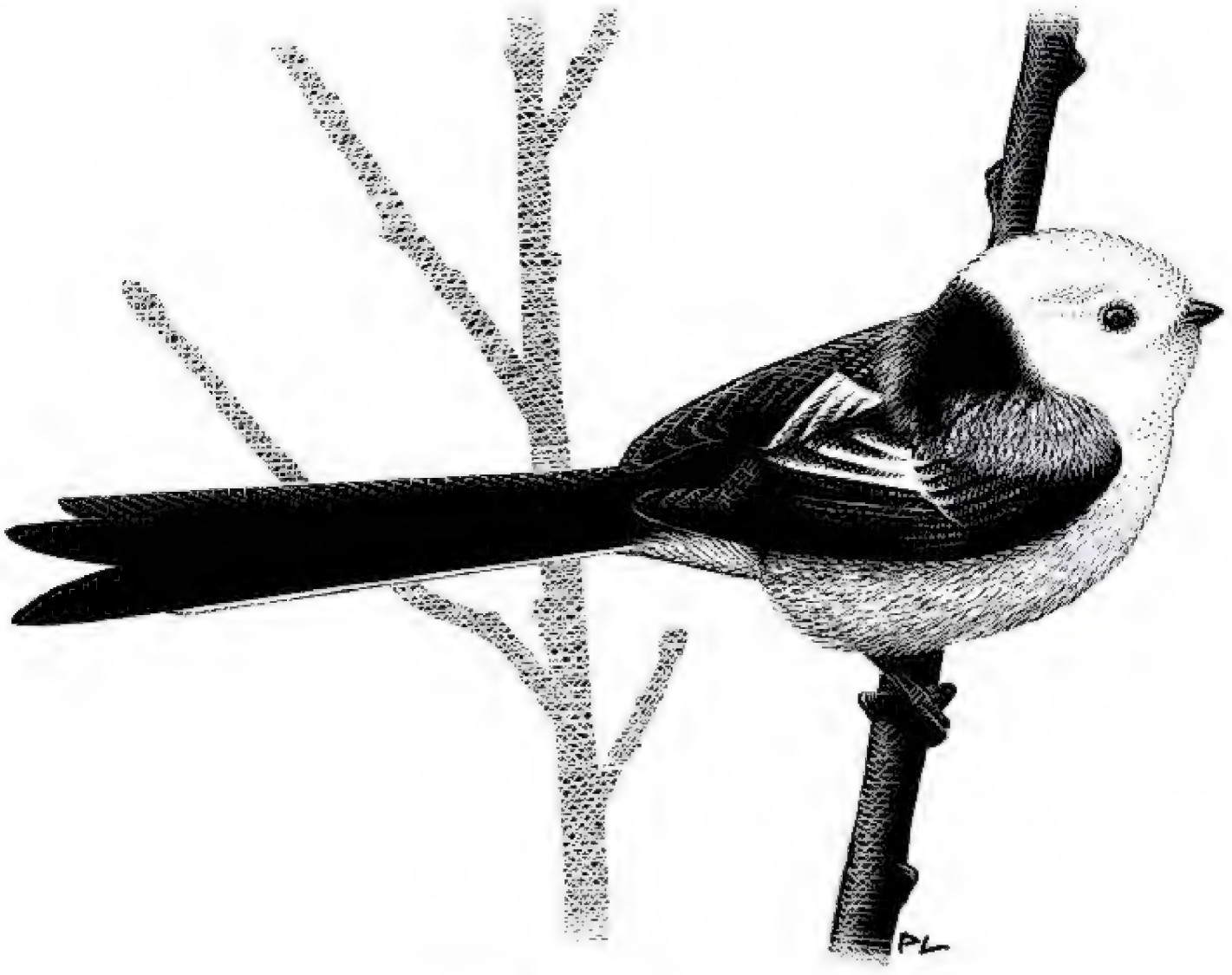
Common resident except on high ground in west.
BBS 39/166: 0% (-9) increase 1994-2005, -24% (-9) decrease 2004-5

A poor year for recording this species in BBS squares, after a period of apparent stability, but there has been a steady increase in east Yorkshire over recent years.

VC 61 Seems to be doing well: eight or nine pairs bred at Tophill Low. Frequently encountered in winter in Hull. There was a series of records from Spurn in the early months, including 18 on 9th February, 17 flying south at the Narrows, and 12 on 24th March that also moved south down the peninsula. Two of the stunning white-headed race *caudata* were found at the Point on 18th October (PC) and were relocated in Easington the following day, remaining there until the year end. This is the second Yorkshire record.

VC 62 Flocks were noted in January, including 35 in Guisborough Forest.

VC 63 Common breeding resident with 18 birds on breeding territory in the Wintersett area. Breeding reports received from the Cononley area, Harden Park, Luddenden Dean and Marley SW. In January flocks of around 65 were at Swillington Ings and 50 in Temple Newsome woods and 40 birds were at Fairburn Ings RSPB in September. The highest count of the year at Old Moor Wetlands was 38 on 26th December with six pairs holding territory in May. Nests were found at Potteric Carr where flocks of 30 were recorded on 22nd September and 13th December.
VC 64 Parties of up to 20 birds were reported from throughout the area, with the largest being 30 at Beaverdyke Res on 17th September. Breeding reports received from Otley Wetlands, Thruscross and St Ives, with probable breeding at Lindley Bridge and Strid Wood.
VC 65 A common resident; several autumn and winter flocks numbered 20 or more birds.



Northern Long-tailed Tit (*caudata*)

BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus* A

Abundant and widespread resident; uncommon passage migrant
BBS 134/166: 24% (16) increase 1994-2005, -17% (-3) decrease 2004-5

A drop this year in the densities noted in BBS of this sedentary species after steady increases to 2004. Less numerous in West Yorkshire than North Yorkshire, where no decrease noted.
VC 61 At Tophill Low, 39 pairs occupied boxes, up four from 2004. Along Hornsea Rail Trail, 28 pairs were found. Although noted as obviously more numerous at Flamborough, it was a poor year for breeding success at Spurn, with cool, wet weather causing most broods to die in the boxes.
VC 62 Influxes were noted on Castle Hill, Scarborough in late September and October peaking at just 30 on the 12th and 15th October.
VC 63 No change noted. The highest count of the year at Old Moor Wetlands was 32 on 26th December and in May 15 nesting pairs were noted. Sixteen nest boxes were used at four sites at Cononley, where 39 present on 1st January and 27 there on 24th.
VC 64 Forty-eight nest boxes in the BOG area produced 306 young with another 33 boxes at St Ives, but no information on fledging. Sixty-five boxes in the Harrogate area produced 246 young, there were 18 further broods fledged and four boxes contained 36 eggs. Counts included 50 at Fountains Abbey and Studley Park on 1st January, 32 at Carr Head Cowling on 31st August and 23 at Bastow Woods.
VC 65 Abundant resident. Nest box schemes at West Wood contained 19 occupied boxes, 118 young from 167 eggs and at Nosterfield NR, three boxes and 19 young from 20 eggs. Regular visitor to the feeders at High Batts NR with 30+ present on occasions.

GREAT TIT *Parus major* A

Abundant and widespread resident; uncommon passage migrant
BBS 116/166: 44% (37) increase 1994-2005, 36% (6) increase 2004-5

An excellent year for this species. Has expanded range and population in North Yorkshire, where population densities are bout 50% of *Cyanistes caeruleus*, but population densities are closer to that species in South and East Yorkshire.
VC 61 Two pairs occupied nest boxes at Tophill, while along Hornsea Rail Trail, nine breeding pairs were found, giving an indication of relative abundance to *Cyanistes caeruleus.* Good passage was again noted this year at Spurn during March and early April, when a total of 78 was ringed. There was also obvious visible migration past the Narrows with a total of 68 moving south between 11th March and 21st April
VC 62 Slight autumn influxes were noted on Castle Hill Scarborough with ten on the 12th and 15th October. Singles were at South Gare on 31st March, 11th and 16th October.
VC 63 No change noted. The highest count noted for the year at Old Moor Wetlands was 45 on 24th December and 13 pairs were present during May. Eleven breeding pairs were at Cononley. Counts included 15 and 11 at Paul Clough on 2nd and 20th September.
VC 64 Thirty-one boxes in the BOG area raised 160 young with four other boxes at another site. Nest building was noted in January. Thirty boxes in the Harrogate area raised 163 young, 11 further broods fledged and six boxes contained 49 eggs. Only small counts of 14 at Farnhill on 24th January and 10 at Carr Head Cowling on 8th April.
VC 65 Abundant resident. West Wood had 19 occupied nest boxes and 70 young fledged from 117 eggs.

COAL TIT *Periparus ater* A

Common resident and passage migrant in small numbers. BBS 36/166

The nationally increasing, sedentary race *britannicus* is thinly distributed throughout.
VC 61 Commonly encountered in mixed and conifer woods i.e. at Allerthorpe, Burton Constable, Danes Dyke, Houghton Woods, North Cliffe, Wassand and Tophill Low where two to three pairs bred. Present also in Hull. A continental bird of the nominate form was identified at Flamborough on 15th and 16th October. Spurn had seven records including two birds on 5th October.
VC 62 A common bird in the coniferous forests, and widely distributed throughout the region.
VC 63 Found at most sites throughout the area with suitable habitat. An unusual record was of a party of 15 flying west over Cold Edge Dams Halifax on 11th September. The only other count was 15 at Thornton Moor Res on 18th September and breeding was reported from Cononley area and Howgill Wood where two nests produced 16 young.
VC 64 There is no reason however to suppose this species is anything but common in the area.
VC 65 Common resident that comes to feeders in winter: 79 adults and 15 young ringed at Catterick.

WILLOW TIT *Poecile montanus* A

Red list: uncommon and declining resident, scarce in the east. BBS 5/166

Nationally the British sedentary race *kleinschmidti* of this boreal Palearctic species has decreased by -66% 1994-2005 and casual records suggest this decrease is mirrored in Yorkshire.
VC 61 Breeds in the west of the VC, with reports from Skipwith, Wheldrake Woods, Allerthorpe Old Pits and Saltmarshe Delph, where a pair again used he polystyrene filled nest boxes. One was at PHENR on 14 dates between July 3rd and November 5th. It is a rare reserve visitor to North Cave Wetlands with one on 20th and 31st March and then again on 1st and 3rd of July. Singles were seen at Welton on 14th and 29th April, 26th July and 30th August. Scattered reports included singles at Humber Bridge CP on 23rd March, Tophill Low on 31st March, and Atwick on 4th April, and occasionally in the Kiplingcotes area.
VC 62 Thinly scattered throughout the district with a lot of the records continuing to come from The Carrs and Wykeham Lakes, but also recorded at Eston Nab, Forge Valley, Fylingdale Moor, Guisborough, Hackness, Margrove Ponds, Scalby and Scaling Dam.
VC 63 There has been a decline in numbers over recent years especially in the Huddersfield and Halifax locations with only the odd sighting. One was at Elland GP on 28th March and 30th May. The Wintersett area held eight birds on breeding territories, with two to four birds seen regularly throughout the year at Fairburn Ings RSPB and up to two birds in the Swillington area. The highest count of the year at Old Moor Wetlands was 12 on 5th of November and 26th of December. In May six pairs were noted in territory, at least four of which bred. A single was at Blacktoft Sands RSPB from 16th June until 22nd July. The decline of this species continues at Southfield Res, where there were just six records for the year, all of them from Went Ings between August and October while at Sprotborough Flash the species is still a resident breeder in small numbers but seemingly continues to be on the decrease. There is a healthy population at Potteric Carr with breeding evidenced by sightings of several family parties. Birds can be seen regularly at a winter feeding station. Highest count on Thorne Moors NNR was six on 20th September with birds breeding at the Reserve.
VC 64 Has now become so scarce in the VC that all records are mentioned. Bred Staveley NR and possibly Hay-a-Park where a family party was seen in June. Staveley NR had one or two birds on 42 dates and Hay-a-Park on several dates, throughout the year. Two birds were on a private site on 2nd and 16th January.

One was at Killinghall Moor from August to October and one at Spofforth on 6th and 7th December, one at Fewston Res on 10th with two at Menwith Hill from late October to the year end.
VC 65 Scarce local resident restricted to suitable habitat. Two birds were at High Batts NR and Foxglove Covert most of the year.

MARSH TIT *Poecile palustris* A
Red list: uncommon resident, scarce in south-east and south-west. BBS 2/166

This Palearctic species prefers large broad-leaved woodland and nationally has slightly increased 1994-2005. There is insufficient data to corroborate this trend locally.
VC 61 Breeds in mature woodland along the southern and western Wolds, such as Brantingham Dale, South Dalton, Warter, and in lowland woods such as Allerthorpe, Houghton and North Cliffe. Two to four are regularly seen at Welton Water but is unusual in the east. One was at Tophill Low on 20th September.
VC 62 Thinly distributed throughout the region's woodlands, most easily seen in Forge Valley.
VC 63 A scarce visitor to the VC with sightings reported from three sites. Two birds were seen on a regular basis at Temple Newsome woods from January until April. There were no summer sightings but three birds were noted on 3rd September hinting at a successful breeding attempt. Two birds were then seen from October to the year end on numerous occasions. One remained at Blacktoft Sands RSPB from 19th June until 18th July and caused much confusion with the preceding species. This is the first record for the reserve. Two records of single birds at Potteric Carr were on 15th February and 7th March.
VC 64 Reported from 20 localities in the Harrogate area but only four records from other areas: singles at Burley on 14th January and 6th March, Strid Wood on 19th April and Timble Ings on 30th August.
VC 65 Thinly distributed local resident. Ten were at High Batts NR on 10th February, 15 on 12th July and 10 on 26th December. Out numbers the previous species where both occur together by a ratio of eight to one at High Batts NR and similarly in the Catterick area where 20 Marsh Tits were ringed compared to three Willow Tits.

NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea* A
Uncommon to fairly common resident, scarce in south-east. BBS 7/166

A very sedentary West Palearctic species that has increased nationally and casual records suggest this is also the trend in Yorkshire, although any spread is very slow.
VC 61 One from August 2004 at Brandesburton was present until 27th February (G & WW) and one was in North Cliffe Wood on 17th April (WFC).
VC 62 Present in many of the region's woodlands north to the Tees, including Guisborough, Saltburn and Skelton.
VC 63 This species has expanded its range greatly over the last few years and as a result wandering birds have turned up at locations where they were previously extremely scarce such as Blackmoorfoot Res and Pugneys CP which had their second record on 3rd September. Wintersett has also benefited with a surge of records including two breeding pairs. The main stronghold seems to be Bretton Park with at least three breeding pairs, and the surrounding areas of Denby Dale and Clayton West. Two pairs breed at Temple Newsome with birds presumably from here wandering to outlying areas such as Swillington Ings. In the area of Sprotborough Flash birds were recorded along the valley throughout the year consolidating its status as a resident breeder. A single bird was at Potteric Carr on 23rd March.
VC 64 Nest boxes at Folly Hall produced 6 young; three breeding pairs were reported from Middleton Woods, two at Swinsty raised 12 young and four boxes at Hackfall Woods, 26 young. Two pairs were at Dob Park and there were four breeding records from the Washburn Valley. Six were at Middleton Woods on 9th April and Strid Wood on 4th May. Bird tables and feeders are now attracting birds to gardens in Baildon, Ilkley, Silsden where three birds present throughout August and Threshfield on 31st. Reported elsewhere from; Arncliffe, Burley, Bingley, Bolton Abbey, Cliffe Castle, Great Ouseburn, Hawkswick Wood, Hirst Wood, Howgill, Kettlewell, Otley Chevin, Ripon Canal, Spofforth, Stirton and Staveley NR.
VC 65 A fairly common but local species. Breeding was confirmed in West Tanfield and Catterick areas.

TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris* A
Fairly common resident, absent from higher ground. BBS 11/166

The sedentary British population of the race *britannica* is probably stable in the county, following national trends, with occasional migrants of the nominate form possible on the coast.
VC 61 Widespread throughout the VC, five boxes were occupied at Tophill Low (up one). One on 4th October at Filey may have been a migrant.
VC 62 Specific records came from Seamer Road Mere, Hayburn Wyke, Hackness, Forge Valley, Langdale and Field Lane, Scalby.
VC 63 Common breeding resident found in most wooded areas with no change of status reported. Fairly common at Potteric Carr with evidence of breeding including birds with food and with young. Potteric's highest count was of six on 22nd February.
VC 64 Two broods were raised at a nest at Farnham GP. Evidence of breeding also at Appletreewick, Knotford Nook, Low Wood, St Ives and Strid Wood, with six at St Ives on 19th March.
VC 65 A reasonably common breeding resident.

GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus* **A** 3,9,2,2,8

Amber list: rare passage migrant mainly in spring: bred in 1992.

This species maintains a small breeding population in East Anglia, at the western edge of its range that extends from Morocco north to southern Norway and east to Mongolia. Spring records could include overshooting British birds, but are more likely to be of continental origin.

VC 61 An immature male/female was seen Sammy's Point, Easington and later Spurn on 19th May (PC), flying south at the Narrows on 20th (SDW). Two birds were seen flying west at Filey Dams on 22nd, one at 0815 and one at 1045 (KM: JS: JMT). An immature male was at Spurn on 22nd, remaining in the Wire Dump to 25th area when heard to sing (MDu: AGG: SJ *et al.*) An immature type bird was seen in the Triangle at Spurn on 26th (PC) and was probably a new bird. Single female/immatures were in Old Fall at Flamborough on 28th May and 18th June.

VC 62 A female/immature was seen flying in from sea at Sandsend on 18th May (DV).

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio* **A** 14,32,6,19,12

Red list and UK BAP species: scarce passage migrant; formerly bred

This species is now extinct in Britain, but breeds from Portugal north to Scandinavia and east to western Siberia, with birds migrating via the eastern Mediterranean to winter in Africa.

VC 61 There was just one spring record of a female first seen at the Narrows then the Point at Spurn on 31st May. The next was a juvenile at Tunstall from 23rd to 29th August. In September Spurn recorded singles from 2nd to 5th at Point, in the Triangle on 3rd, and Beacon Lane on 4th, with a second bird at the Point on 4th. A male came in off at Filey also on 4th and remained the next day. At Flamborough a juvenile was in the Bay Brambles at Flamborough from 5th to 9th, another was at Head Farm on 11th, and a third was at South Landing from 11th to 20th. A late bird was by Easington Gas Terminal from 8th to 14th October.

VC 62 One was at Hummersea on 18th September (NW *et al*).

LESSER GREY SHRIKE *Lanius minor* **A** 0,0,0,0,2

Rare migrant; 10 previous records, the last in 1989

Breeds from France east to central Asia, wintering in Africa.

VC 61 Two records from the same location in one year were completely unexpected, but Spurn Point managed this feat. A first-winter was found just north of the Point on 2nd September (SDW *et al.*) and a 2nd summer female was found at Middle Camp on 24th September and stayed until 30th; ringed on 25th it was later seen mostly near the Lighthouse (PC: RW *et al.*). During its stay, it lost its tail and unfortunately possibly its life, as it was first seen being pursued by a Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*. A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding 14:3 pp 75-78.*

Great Grey Shrike

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor* **A** 4,10,29,11,18
Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

This species breeds from Scandinavia eastwards through to North America, with birds moving south in winter. It occurs as a coastal passage bird in the county, but small numbers also winter inland in Britain.
VC 61 One was near North Bransholme Fishing Ponds, Hull on 12th and 13th February and again on 4th April (MA: RP *et al.*). One was near Driffield on 30th March (GCT). One favoured power lines at Riplingham on 14th April and one was in Old Fall, Flamborough the following day. One was on Easington Long Bank on 20th and 21st April (AAH) before moving south to the Triangle at Spurn. In autumn, two were present at Spurn on 15th October, with three present on 16th, when two were seen to fly south towards Lincolnshire. One was at Wire Dump, Spurn on 18th (BH) and one in Easington on 27th (BH: MGS)
VC 62 Two were at South Gare on 28th March, one remaining to 30th. A very mobile bird was present east of the A171 between Normanby and Fylingthorpe/Robin Hood's Bay junction between 16th and 22nd April. One was at Fylingdales on 7th December.
VC 63 Singles were at Stocksbridge from 3rd to 16th February, Broomhead Moor on 2nd April and Abbey Brook on 17th November.
VC 64 One was in Brisco Wood, Harrogate on 21st April.

WOODCHAT SHRIKE *Lanius senator* **A** 0,0,0,0,1
Rare migrant; 28 previous records, last in 1999

Breeds from France and north-west Africa east to southern Iran, wintering in Africa south of the Sahara.
VC 61 A first-summer female found at Spurn at the Wire Dump on the morning of 26th May (PC *et al.*) was later trapped and ringed and remained for the rest of the day.

JAY *Garrulus glandarius* **A**
Fairly common resident, and scarce migrant, absent from high ground and south-east. BBS 12/166

The resident British race *rufitergum* in its North Yorkshire strongholds appears to have declined since 1994 in line with a -15% national trend. There was an influx of continental birds in October.
VC 61 Apparently resident at Allerthorpe Common, Burton Constable, North Cliffe and Wassand. One was seen on Skipwith Common on 12th March. One that flew over North Cave Wetlands on 13th April was the first reserve record, with the second one flying over on 4th September, and one was also seen near Beverley on 23rd April. A rarity at Flamborough, four were seen on 9th October, and a southerly passage was noted at Filey from 11th October when one flew over the Dams, followed by on in Primrose Valley on 15th. A further five flew over on 17th, followed by a single on 18th and three on 20th. One in Top Scrub on 27th marked the end of the excitement. Two at Atwick on 23rd October were the first there in 26 years. Further south at Spurn, migration was also noted in October, when three flew south over the Triangle before returning back north on 19th; one in Kew Villa garden on 21st; seven U-turned back north on 23rd; and one U-turned over the Triangle on 29th. In October, birds were noted in the LDNNR, with 14 records between 3rd and 21st.
VC 62 Widespread in the forests, with fewer generally seen along the coast, where a small influx noted in October.
VC 63 A common woodland and garden bird seen throughout the year with few breeding records received, due mainly to its secretive behaviour. Ten birds at Shibden Valley in February, 25 at Denholme Clough on 11th September and 36 at Thornton Moor on 15th; 20 at Denholme Clough on 22nd September and 28 there on 2nd October, with at least ten in the autumn at Swillington Ings, were the largest numbers noted. At Blacktoft Sands RSPB four flew south on 26th September and two on 23rd October. Old Moor Wetlands' highest count of the year was nine on 25th of September and two pairs were suspected of breeding. Potteric Carr had records in all months but no evidence of breeding: five were seen gathering acorns on 11th September.
VC 64 Eight were at Middleton on 19th March, however most records of counts came during September and October. Five to seven were at Follifoot on several dates from 5th September to 11th October, six over the Great Yorkshire Showground on 21st, seven at Harrogate GC on 25th, nine at Gouthwaite Res on 1st October.
VC 65 A fairly common resident especially where Oaks occur. Six were at Breary Banks on 22nd October and 30 were ringed in the Catterick area.

MAGPIE *Pica pica* **A**
Abundant resident. BBS 87/166: 3% (0) increase 1994-2005, -15% (3) decrease 2004-5

A slight decline in the sedentary population has been noted since 2000.
VC 61 Thought to be declining at Tophill Low, where only two pairs bred and no counts above 14 received, but a slight increase in breeding population noted at Flamborough. One pair bred at Spurn, where up to 13 noted in March and 10 in October.
VC 62 An indication of its abundance, a report from Grove Farm, Cayton Carr indicated over 300 had been 'controlled' in traps by the local shooting syndicate during the year!
VC 63 Common resident breeding bird throughout the area. Fifteen passed through Denholme Clough on

19th September, 40 were at Luddenden Dean on 1st December and with flocks of 40 at Wheatley Valley Halifax, and 20 at Elland GP also in December amongst the largest flocks noted. Old Moor Wetlands had a maximum of 39 on the 21st of September and there were eighteen breeding pairs. At Potteric Carr there was a winter roost of 21 on 6th February and a flock of 52 on 13th December.
VC 64 Twenty were at Farnham GP on 26th February. 100 at Harrogate on 31st December were presumably going to roost.
VC 65 A common resident throughout the VC.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula* A

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor
BBS 98/166: 73% (36) increase 1994-2005, -16% (8) decrease 2004-5

The resident British race *spermologus* has declined since a population peak in 2000, but is still relatively numerous particularly in North Yorkshire and on upland margins.
VC 61 Breeds in chimneys and quarries throughout, and on cliffs from Flamborough north to Filey, where 33 at the Dams in July and 85 at Newbiggin in October were the highest counts. Up to 100 were counted at Flamborough. A massive 1100 roosted north of Tophill in late October, and 120 were seen in north Hull in December. At Spurn between 14th March and 29th May a total of 147 flew south and 135 U-turned. Very few birds flew south in the autumn, and between 12th September and 9th November, 143 flew south and 236 U-turned with a high count of 60 on 29th October. One at Bempton RSPB in early February showed characteristics of an eastern race.
VC 62 A common breeding bird of the district. A partial albino bird was present in the Gristhorpe and Killerby area during January and February.
VC 63 Common breeding resident although fifty pairs at Todmorden was the only breeding information received. At Thornton Moor watch point between 11th September and 5th November 1100 birds were seen with maximum of 581 on 10th October with 350 at Elland was the next largest number reported, followed by 150 in October over Astley hillside Swillington Ings, 94 in August at Blackmoorfoot Res. Fairburn Ings RSPB regularly had 40 birds in residence increasing to 58 eight in the winter months. Potteric Carr had counts of 200 on 17th January, 50 on 11th May and a pre-roost gathering of 300 in December.
VC 64 Maximum counts were: 360 between Arncliffe Cote and Arncliffe on 1st January, 300 at Norton Conyers on 9th, 700 at Gouthwaite Res on 13th February comprised of two flocks and 500 at Otley Wetland on 5th February. At Gouthwaite Res, 650 were seen on 20th and 400 at Otley Wetland roost on 24th December. A bird showing characteristics of the eastern race *C. m. siemmerringii* was at Knaresborough on 19th May (see plate 4, *p 89 Harrogate Report 2005*).
VC 65 Abundant resident, 300 were at Nosterfield NR on 13th February and 32 *pulli* were ringed in the Catterick area.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus* A

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor
BBS 98/166: -49% (-8) decrease 1994-2005, -24% (-7) decrease 2004-5

The local populations of this Eurasian species are mostly resident, but form communal winter roosts. There has been in decline since 1996 in Yorkshire, although populations in East Yorkshire may have held up in 2005.
VC 61 Large roosts noted north of Tophill Low, at Hotham and Wassand in winter, but no counts received. At Flamborough, 356 were counted in January, and 320 at Muston Grange in December. At Spurn between 10th March and 30th May, 295 flew south and 78 U-turned. In the autumn, just 233 flew south and 98 U-turned between 30th August and 12th November.
VC 62 No counts received.
VC 63 Common breeding resident with the largest flocks being 80 at Cullingworth to the end of January, 350 at Jay House Lane, Halifax on 27th September and 300 on the hillside at Swillington Ings on a regular basis. Birds from a rookery at Methley often numbered several hundred flying towards Temple Newsome to roost. At Haw Park near Wintersett a new rookery was established with two pairs breeding. Other rookery counts included 14 at Cononley, 13 at Landis Lund, 55 at Carleton, 75 at Luddenden Dean, while counts included 245 at Thornton Moor in January with 60 in May, 155 in June, 70 in August, 53 in October and 350 flew over Potteric Carr on 30th October. Only other count was 80 at Landis Lund on 2nd June.
VC 64 Rookery nest counts comprised: 61 at Farnhill, 34 at Glasshouses, 12 at Barden and 27 at Thorlby.
VC 65 Abundant resident, flocks of up to 200 were feeding at Nosterfield NR in August and September. A rookery at High Batts contained 50 nests.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone* A

Abundant and widespread resident, passage migrant and winter visitor
BBS 149/166: 73% (21) increase 1994-2005, 8% (-1) increase 2004-5

Has become one of the county's most widespread birds, possibly due to a reduction in keepering activity, frequenting urban areas.
VC 61 Large counts include 150 at Paull Holme Strays in January, 151 in East Park, Hull on 15th February,

257 at Flamborough on 2nd May, 46 on Brough Airfield on 16th September and 84 at Filey CP on 3rd October. At Spurn, 609 flew south and 80 U-turned between 13th March and 29th May, but only 42 were logged moving south in autumn.
VC 62 The largest flock noted was 32 at Cowbar.
VC 63 Relatively common in suitable habitats and in some places, numbers seem to be increasing to the detriment of other species which are vulnerable to predation. The increase may, in part, be attributable to reduction in numbers of Black-billed Magpies by unlicensed trapping and shooting. The highest count for the year at Old Moor Wetlands was 45 on 24th December and 13 pairs were present there during May. At Cullingworth, 100 were seen at the end of January, at Thornton Moor, 70 were seen at the end of September and 50 at Queensbury in late December. An albino bird was seen in the Mixenden area of Halifax from 9th July to the end of the year.
V 64 Counts included 50 at Spofforth SF in March.
VC 65 Common resident, this species is the source of heavy predation on eggs and chicks of both waders and ducks at Nosterfield NR.

HOODED CROW *Corvus cornix* A 3,1,8,9,6

Rare visitor, usually on passage, with occasional winter records

Breeds in Ireland, the Isle of Man and north-west Scotland, but also in northern and central Europe, where the northern populations are migratory and no doubt account for sightings on the east coast.
VC 61 One flew south at BPNR on 4th April, with the next south at Spurn on 21st May. One was at Flamborough Head on 26th May and one north over Easington on 8th June. Possibly one bird may have been involved. The autumn saw one north at Spurn on 13th November.
VC 63 One was feeding amongst a flock of *corvids* at the Biffa Tip off Newsome Green Lane, Leeds on 2nd May (PRM).

RAVEN *Corvus corax* A

Scarce but increasing resident in west, rare in east. BBS 1/166

This Holarctic species used to breed widely until persecution began 200 years ago. Retains a foothold in the west and recently has increased in the Yorkshire Dales. The only VC 61 record in recent years was one at Filey on 10th December 2000.
VC 62 One was reported around Gilling on various dates in June.
VC 63 Forty records were received from twenty-one sites in the Halifax area with birds being noted in every month except June, the maximum count being four at Fly Flatts in August. Two pairs were proved to have bred raising four and three young whilst a third pair may have also bred. Recorded at Cononley Ings (two on 13th January), Leeshaw Res, Soil Hill, Stocksbridge, Thornton Moor and Warley Moor/Cold Edge. Present throughout the year at a site near Doncaster where a pair bred in the area for the first time, successfully raising three young.
VC 64 In the YDNP seven sites were checked, five were occupied and three pairs successfully fledged five, four and three young. Appears to be slowly spreading. One was at Gouthwaite Res on 29th March, three on 7th April and one on 3rd December. One or two were regularly over Pateley Bridge with up to three birds at Arncliffe, Barden Moor, Conistone Moor, Denton Moor, Greater Whernside, Grimwith Res, Hebden, Ilkley Moor, Kettlewell, Kex Gill, Kilnsey Crag, Littondale, four at Long Ashes, Middleton Moor, Norwood Edge, Pen-y-gent, Settle, Simon's Seat, Swinsty, Threshfield Moor and Timble Ings. Away from the usual sites records came from Baildon Bank and Hawksworth Moor. One was at Studley Park on 27th November.
VC 65 A very scarce local resident on high ground showing some signs of expansion.

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris* A

Red list: abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor, but has decreased
BBS 118/166: -40% (-35) decrease 1994-2005, -6% (10) decrease 2004-5

British and north European populations have been declining and it has been decreasing steadily in Yorkshire, although an increase in population size was noted in East Yorkshire BBS squares.
VC 61 Winter roosts were recorded at PHENR and Hornsea Mere, where 4000 counted on 26th October. At Filey 3000 birds were noted on 21st March and also 2nd April. High counts of 2500 on 20th and 3250 on 26th March were noted at Spurn. No further decrease in breeding population was noted at Flamborough, where 2700 migrants were recorded on 2nd September. At Filey, the first record of individuals coming in off was on October 12th (23 birds), but a peak count occurred a few days later with 2000 coming in off the sea on 17th. At Spurn, the highest counts were 4600 on 21st October with totals over 4000 being recorded over the next four days. Post-breeding flocks had been recorded at Spurn from June however: a minimum of 9000 flew south between 15th June and 11th December.
VC 62 A good count came on the 26th October when 4-5,000 roosted in the *phragmites* reed beds at Causeway Lake, Wykeham Lakes. Decline noted in south Cleveland.
VC 63 Common breeding resident throughout the area. The largest flocks reported were 760 at Thornton Moor on 12th January, 541 at Cononley Ings on 18th March and 1080 on 16th October, 500 at Biffa Tip near Skelton Lake during the winter months, 750 at Thornton Moor on 29th October with 1070 on 20th November,

600 at Cononley Moor on 12th November. Also in November, 500 flew south over Swillington Ings on 7th, 1200 were at Blackmoorfoot Res on 12th, 3000 at Calder Wetlands from November into early December and 5000 at Northowram on 30th November. At Beal Carrs the highest counts for the year were *c.*220 on 1st March, 11th November and 31st December; *c.*225 on 30th March and *c.*550 on 12th October. This latter figure comprised birds heading south-eastwards to an unknown roost site, late in the day. Similar pre-roost numbers were at Potteric Carr on 30th October and 7th November.
VC 64 Early counts: 500 at Timble Ings on 1st January. 1250 at Thorlby on 3rd, 2000 at Bellflask Quarry all month, 10000 at Grimwith on 9th March, 525 at the end of May with 3500 and 1050 at roost on two days in June. The roost at Staveley held 1000 on 19th August with 3000 on 6th September and 25000 on 18th including an all-white bird. In October. 1000 were at Flaxby Covert on 11th and finally, 600 were at Thorlby on 29th December.
VC 65 Common resident. Large flocks are as follows: 500 Leighton Res on 12th March; 200 at Nosterfield NR on 27th August, 250 on 12th September, 400 on 8th October and 900 at Lingham Lake on 28th October left to the south at dusk. Flask's Lake reedbed had a roost of 1500 birds in October.

ROSE COLOURED STARLING *Sturnus roseus* **A** 2,11,4,1,7
Rare visitor in spring and summer; 62 previous records (63 birds)

This irruptive species breeds from south Ukraine and central Turkey east to Kazakhstan and Afghanistan, occasionally breeding in south-east Europe.
VC 61 A superb adult was photographed at Flamborough where it remained around Head Farm from 29th May to 6th June, and probably the same bird was around Flamborough village from 27th June to 1st July. A male flew north at the Narrows, Spurn on 7th June (PC *et al.*) was relocated in the Triangle, where it spent most of the day. An adult was found at Southfield Farm, Kilnsea on 12th August (GF), remaining to 16th. A juvenile was at Flamborough from 2nd to 10th September (AMA; PAL) and another juvenile was found by Easington Long Bank on 3rd September (AAH) and was subsequently seen at Spurn to 7th. An adult was at Flamborough Head on 4th September (PAL). A juvenile was very mobile over the Spurn area on 16th October. It was first seen over the Warren and then the Point before it returned north to the Triangle (RJS *et al.*).

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus* **A**
Red list: abundant resident but has decreased.
BBS 93/166: -8% (-9) decrease 1994-2005, -16% (1) decrease 2004-5

Closely associated with built-up areas from urban centres to farms, this was a poor year for the species after a small recovery in 2003-4, although densities in BBS squares are higher in East Yorkshire than ten years ago. More attention needs to be paid to recording this species.
VC 61 Thought to be in decline in the Hull Valley area, flocks of 60 were noted at Atwick, Hull, Spurn and Ulrome. An exceptional count was 250 at Newbiggin, Filey on 2nd August. In autumn at Spurn 371 flew south between 13th September and 12th November with a high count of 128 on 28th September.
VC 62 It is still a fairly numerous breeding bird in the region. Continuing the pattern from the last few years the largest count was from the Scalby and Burniston area. This year it was a post-breeding flock of 130, feeding in a wheat field on the 27th July.
VC 63 Breeding occurred throughout the area. Still declining in the Old Moor Wetlands area where the only notable count was 90 on 14th September in Broomhill Village. In May a survey of the area recorded 38 singing males. The only other counts received were 50 present at Northowram all year and 14 at Old Royston village on 14th May.
VC 64 Greatly under-recorded with the only information being: 20 at Thorlby on 15th February, 60 at Redcar Tarn on 29th July and 70 at Littlethorpe Stud Farm during early October, 30-50 at Litton on 13th November, and 20-30 at Arncliffe on 17th December. Four pairs bred at Aldwark, eight pairs at Littlethorpe and four pairs at Ripon and at Allerton Green.
VC 65 Widespread but thinly distributed.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus* **A**
Red list and UK BAP species: uncommon resident; very recent population recovery. BBS 27/166

Recorded from 18/92 squares in North Yorkshire, a proportionate increase, and maximum counts in Humberside are double those of twenty years ago, as conservation efforts appear to be having impact, and populations recover. Nest-boxes and winter feeding can have positive effects on this mainly farmland species.
VC 61 Breeds at a number of sites in the VC, with 11 pairs at Tophill Low, up five on 2004. A count of 120 at Newbiggin reflects a thriving population in the Filey area. There is a healthy breeding population at Flamborough, with 200 on 22nd January and 120 on 23rd October. Flocks seen included 85 at Spurn on 26th September, 60 at Bempton, 44 at Paull Holme Strays, 30 at Old Ellerby, 30 at Allerthorpe Old Pits, 25 at Atwick, 20 at North Cave Wetlands, 18 at Welton, 15 at Nafferton and 12 at Wetwang. There was a good autumn passage at Spurn, where 18 pairs bred, when 1425 flew south between 7th September and 11th

December. High counts included 144 on 20th, 291 on 26th, and 171 on 29th October.
VC 62 A localised breeder, with a good population in The Carrs and in the Scalby and Burniston/Cloughton area, in particular. Numbers appear to be fairly stable with counts of 26 at Scalby Lodge Pond, 40 at Ings Bridge, Wykeham, and 50 on Star Carr. In south Cleveland, 20 pairs bred at Coatham Stob, and a small coastal movement was noted in October.
VC 63 With the provision of nest boxes and feeding programmes this species is making a recovery. In the Wintersett area 70 were regularly present at the feeding station during the first part of the winter with 80 recorded on 12th March. A total of 61 pairs bred with 388 nestlings rung between 8th May and 8th August. Several pairs nested at Pugneys CP, up to 20 were regularly present in the Swillington area during the winter months but breeding didn't occur in the nest boxes provided. The only records in the Halifax area were at Jay House Lane where a maximum of six were seen on 28th March. There were 25 at Flosh Cononley on 7th August. At Blacktoft Sands RSPB up to 30 were present in January and February. Numbers increased in March to 48 by the 14th and a minimum of 27 pairs bred and at least 100 young fledged. In the autumn there were counts of 80 on 26th August, 120 on 16th September and 54 on 15th November. Bred in nest boxes at Southfield Res providing a new record count of 160 at the southern feeding area on 10th December and the provision of nest boxes and winter feeding at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB continue to benefit the species. The year's highest count was a minimum of 240 on the 16th September. In May 41 pairs were counted in boxes and from the nest boxes there were 62 nesting attempts with 236 young successfully fledged. There were also counts of up to 180 in January and 230 in December.
VC 64 Sixteen pairs bred in the Harrogate area including a pair that had three broods, and at least 25 young fledged from Clifton, Knotford Nook, Leathley and Menston. Usually small counts in the VC, with 21 at Gouthwaite Res on 27th January.
VC 65 Thinly distributed local resident. High Batts NR feeding station held 20 on 21st January and 13th March and during November, with 25 on 2nd December and 30 on 13th, and 47 were ringed in the winter months. Regular in the Nosterfield area with maxima of 20 at the reserve on 10th September and 30 at Lingham Lake on 3rd and 9th October. Three pairs bred at Nosterfield fledging 11 young. In the Catterick area 101 were ring of which 54 were *pulli*.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs* A

Abundant and widespread resident, passage migrant and winter visitor
BBS 149/166: 46% (18) increase 1994-2005, 13% (4) increase 2004-5

Ties with *Corvus corone* for the title of "most widespread species 2005" from the number of BBS squares in which recorded. This species continues its steady increase across all four counties, but densities are greater in North Yorkshire. Continental immigrants double winter numbers: it would be of interest to record whether, as a result of milder winters, that differential migration still occurs - that males still preponderate locally while females mostly travel beyond the county.
VC 61 Common and seems to be increasing: 54 pairs at Tophill compared to 44 in 2004. Southerly passage in the spring at Spurn took place mainly through mid-late March when 402 were logged and in the autumn from mid- to late October, with the peak count 314 on 26th.
VC 62 A common breeding bird, but winter counts were much lower than 2004, and the maximum count on the coast was 60 on 15th October.
VC 63 Common breeding resident. Sixteen pairs bred at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB. Twelve sites in the Cononley area had a minimum of 17 broods fledged. Counts included 30 at Walshaw Dean on 3rd January, 100 at Blake Dean on 28th January, 100 at Luddenden Dean on 27th February, 103 at Denholme Clough on 2nd October, 100 flying over Ringstone Edge Res on 18th October when 266 at Paul Clough and 50 at Potteric Carrs on 23rd December. During September/October 1345 passed through Thornton Moor Res with peak counts of 150 on 26th and 28th October.
VC 64 Early counts: 70 at Studley Park on 14th with 88 at Staveley NR on 30th and 50 at Hookstone Woods on 20th February.
VC 65 Abundant resident. The feeders at High Batts NR attracted up to 50 at a time during the winter months. Also on 18th October during a period of passerine movement, 60 flew over the High Batts NR in small flocks. At Breary Banks 60 were feeding in a game crop on 26th December. An all-white bird was seen at Cliff Castle near Masham for two weeks in mid-January. At Catterick 581 were ringed in the year.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla* A

Uncommon to fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor in variable numbers

Breeds from Scandinavia east to the Bering Sea, migrants mostly pass through the county to winter further south, but flocks attracted to beechmast will over-winter while supplies remain.
VC 61 Small numbers of wintering birds were found in the early months, including 70+ at Londesbrough, 60 at Hotham Park, 45 at Weedley, 40 at Walkington and 11 at North Cave. The last was seen at Spurn on 6th May, with the first of autumn at Flamborough on 2nd September. There were exceptional falls on the coast associated with the mid-October influx of thrushes. Spurn Point saw 800 logged on 15th, 658 of these leaving south off the Point. Other high counts were 244 on 17th and 170 on 18th. Ten were in Easington on 15th, then 1000+ next day, with 00's lingering, and smaller numbers were at Atwick and Ulrome. Further north at Flamborough Head the immigration was even more noticeable: – peak counts were 6500 on 15th October

and 200 on 16th. At Filey there were 75 on 15th, 140 on 16th, 120 on 17th and 85 on 18th. There were scattered records from inland sites in October, but no flocks lingered.
VC 62 A relatively poor year for wintering flocks in the Scarborough area, but good numbers were recorded in Cleveland in the first few months, including 117 trapped at Skelton Castle. Twenty-five were near Bransdale Church on 9th February. A late bird was at Ravenscar on the 2nd May. 50 were grounded at Long Nab and 75 at South Gare on the 15th October.
VC 63 In the first winter period, flocks of up to 150 at Blake Dean in January, 30 at Ovenden Wood and 200 at Manor Heath all in the Halifax area were the largest flocks found. Blackmoorfoot Res had four on 16th January with a singles on 24th March and 10th April. Good numbers were reported in spring with 500+ flying north-west at Strines Res on 25th March and 350 still in the area the following day. In the autumn birds began moving in early October, with birds at Thornton Moor Res on 7th and 39 over Haw Park on 15th. Thirteen flew over Swillington Ings on 16th, 15 over Fairburn on 17th with 20 there on 6th November and 195 at Paul Clough on 26th. The peak "vismig" count of birds moving south at Redmires Res was 1010 on 29th October with 1000 also seen that day at Rod Moor, and 2300 recorded moving south in two hours at Rod Moor in 31st.
VC 64 Two hundred were at Grassington Bridge on 3rd January, 100 at Strid Wood on 27th, 100 at Swinsty on 25th with 840 on 28th, 30 at Hookstone Woods on 3rd March, 300 at Grass Wood on 23rd and 120 on 28th, 30 at Bolton Abbey on 31st with the last at Carlton on 22nd April. First back were 70 at Quarry Moor, Ripon on 17th, 250 flying to roost at Timble Ings on 22nd October, 32 at Caldene Fields on 1st November and 50 at Barden on 5th.
VC 65 Erratic winter visitor, the first for the autumn was a single at Nosterfield NR on 15th September. At Foxglove Covert, 53 were ringed in the winter months.

SERIN *Serinus serinus* **A** 2,1,1,0,6
Amber list: rare passage migrant; 43 previous records, 2 in winter

Breeds commonly through continental Europe to NW Africa. The late autumn records this year could possibly all refer to the same individual.
VC 61 There were four records from Spurn Point and one from Easington. A female/immature male was seen at the Warren on 29th April before it left south (AAH: SDW: MGN). A female was found in the Church Field on 15th May, trapped and ringed on 16th and was still present 18th May (PC *et al.*). A male flew south past the Lighthouse on 22nd May (TMc). One was at Easington Lagoon on 6th November (JGr *et al.*) and one flew south over the Warren at Spurn on 12th November (RJS).
VC 63 At Blacktoft Sands RSPB one flew over on the morning of the 4th November (MJP: PSh).

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris* **A**
Common resident and passage migrant.
BBS 112/166: 39% (47) increase 1994-2005, -13% (9) decrease 2004-5

A mostly European species that is resident in the county, although there is some seasonal movement and immigration from Fennoscandia. This year's decrease in BBS numbers is unexpected and not matched nationally or in North Yorkshire where it appeared to increase.
VC 61 Tophill Low's breeding population continues to decrease: nine pairs, from 15 in 2004 and 21 in 2003, but 62 pairs were found along Hornsea Rail Trail. No significant roosting flocks were noted in the VC, but immigration no doubt occurred in October. At Spurn numbers started to increase from early March with up to 60–70 present and a high count of 100 on 11th March. Spring passage produced 905 birds south between 14th March and 21st June. In autumn a total of 10,413 passed flew south at Spurn between 28th August and 11th December, the bulk occurring during October. High counts included 861 on 11th, 990 on 20th, 866 on 26th, and 602 on 29th October. At Filey in October 250 foraged at the Tip on 16th and 421 birds were ringed, with 120 birds still present on 12th November.
VC 62 A common breeding bird in the district. At Long Nab, 210 went south in three hours on the 11th October.
VC 63 Common resident breeding bird throughout the area. The highest count of the year at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB was 250 on the 3rd January and at least twenty displaying males were noted in May. Flocks of 50 were noted at Ovenden Wood on 2nd January, 60 at Marley SW on 15th January, and 50 at Wadhouse Lane Halifax on 29th July and Blackmoorfoot Res in September. Then in October, 144 were at Thornton Moor and 112 at Denholme Clough on 2nd, 65 at Leeshaw on 3rd with 109 flying west at Cold Edge Dams on 25th. 150 were seen regularly in the Wintersett area during August and September with a count of 500 on 20th August. Beal Carrs had a peak of 40 on 29th December and 80 birds were ringed there in the year.
VC 64 A counts of 50 at Quarry Moor, Ripon on 12th January was the only one from the first winter period. Seventy were at North Stainley on 29th November and 200 at Weecher Res roost on 10th December.
VC 65 Very common resident: in the Catterick area 653 were ringed in the year.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis* **A**
Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor
BBS 101/166: 14% (19) increase 1994-2005, -39% (2) decrease 2004-5

Britain's resident race *britannica* mostly winters overseas to the south in France and Spain, but some birds are present year-round in the county, with passage from further north in Britain. BBS figures show 2005 to be a poor year after the population peak in 2004, and unexpected against national trends, although again seems to be faring better in North Yorkshire.

VC 61 The breeding population at Tophill Low appears to be stable, but lower than usual numbers at PHENR, and 17 pairs along Hornsea Rail Trail. Charms in January noted of 92 along the Leven Canal, *c.*85 at Wassand, 50 at South Cave and 30 at Willerby Road, Hull. At Spurn Point a low total of 1732 over-shooting birds was logged moving south between 14th March and 21st June. It was more numerous on the coast in autumn in September and October with a record total passage count at Spurn, where between 12th September and 11th December, 15,089 flew south giving highest counts in October of 1358 on 1st, 2333 on 9th, and 2182 on 11th. At Filey CP counts included 110 on 21st September and 220 on 15th October, with 65 at Skipsea on 12th October.

VC 62 A common breeding bird in the lower parts of the VC. Charms of 80 were at Star Carr on the 13th September and a flock near Scalby Lodge Pond peaked at 90 on the 20th September.

VC 63 Distributed throughout the area with birds breeding at most locations. The only breeding reports received were seven birds on territory at Wintersett Res and at least twelve singing males at Old Moor Wetlands noted in May. In August, 40 were at Cononley Lead Mines on 16th, and flocks of 100 were at Swillington Park and 87 at Cononley Ings on 29th, 160 at Castle Carr Road Halifax in September, 146 at Thornton Moor Res on 9th October, and 180 at Northowram throughout October. The autumn peak at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB was 300 on 3rd September. At Beal Carrs linseed and corn stubbles proved extremely attractive to finches and produced Goldfinch counts of *c.*275 and *c.*230 on 18th and 19th October respectively with *c.*200 still present on 22nd and 23rd October.

VC 64 In January, 75 were at Studley Park and 50 at Staveley NR on 23rd and in February, 40 at Farnham GP on 5th with 25 at Otley Wetland during the month. Fifty were at Aldwark GC on 23rd April. Post-juvenile flocks of 40 were at Farnham GP on 14th August, 100 at Spofforth SW later in the month, 100 at Tong Park Res on 7th September, 112 at Grimwith Res on 24th, 40 at Masham on 9th October, 100 at Hay-a-Park on 14th and 200 at Sharow in mid-December declining to 60 at year end. It continues to visit garden feeders especially those containing nyjer seed (*Guizotia abyssinica*).

VC 65 Common resident, one of the larger flocks was 40 at Masham on 4th October. At High Batts 43 were ringed in the winter months.

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus* **A**
Scarce breeding resident; uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor. BBS 4/166

Breeds in upland conifer plantations, but visitors to gardens in winter may include immigrants from northern Europe. There was a good coastal passage this year.

VC 61 Only recorded inland from September to December, with 40 at Tophill Low and 20-30 at North Cave Wetlands the highest counts, but passage was noted on the coast in spring and autumn. There were no records until March, when there were singles at Filey and Flamborough and up to six at Spurn. There were some late spring and summer records from Flamborough and Spurn, with passage noted from early September. At Flamborough monthly totals were 48 for September and 50 in October. Peak counts were 48 on 1st November, and unusually 41 on 11th December. Spurn enjoyed a very good autumn for this species, with small numbers grounded and a total of 4370 moving south between 5th September and 13th December. Passage was fairly constant throughout the autumn. High counts included: 195 on 7th and 376 on 13th September; 139 on 11th October; 389 on 7th and 560 on 12th November.

VC 62 Small numbers were recorded from the forest breeding sites all summer, with records coming in particular from Dalby and Harwood Dale forests. *C.90* were in Guisborough Forest on 18th January. Of the higher autumn counts, 40 were at Ravenscar on the 11th September, 350 flew northwest at Boulby on 21st October and 175 on 25th, and 49 went south at Long Nab on the 11th November.

VC 63 In the first half of the year there was a scarcity of records with only the odd single bird seen at most locations. At Old Moor Wetlands RSPB only recorded on four dates up to 20th February. An unseasonal bird was reported at Walshaw Dean on 28th June which may point to breeding having taken place nearby. The first returning bird at Old Moor was on 8th September with a peak count of 35 on 22nd September. Potteric Carr's first autumn record was of 30 on 11th September rising to 60 on 16th October. Parties of up to 35 birds were seen flying over most locations into October, with 63 at Paul Clough on 2nd when 71 at Denholme Clough and 56 at Thornton Moor on 11th. Fairburn Ings RSPB held a regular flock of up to 30 birds until the year end.

VC 64 Parties of up to 40 birds were seen throughout the area in early winter with maximum counts of: 60 at Pot Bank on 14th January, 50 at Timble Ings on 23rd, 75 at Bellflask Quarry on 4th February, 70 at Barden on 5th with 150 on 11th and 60 at Nidd Gorge on 28th. Bred at Nidd Gorge, Timble Ings and possibly Buck Park. Late summer produced flocks of 60 at Brusty Wood on 16th August, 70 at Bastow Woods on 5th September and 100 at Tong Park on 7th. In October, 208 at Gouthwaite on 9th and 50 at Staveley NR on 16th and 22nd, and in December, 50 at Otley Wetland on 3rd and 50-70 at Fishergreen, Ripon also during December.

VC 65 Local resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Larger flocks were 35 in Colsterdale on 2nd January. In late summer to year's end flocks of 30 were in Colsterdale and at High Batts.

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina* A

Red list and UK BAP species: common resident and passage migrant
BBS 92/166: -14% (-19) decrease 1994-2005, -10% (-6) decrease 2004-5

A partial migrant, with some birds wintering in France and Spain. This seed-eating species has been adversely affected by agricultural intensification, and it was a poor year again, after a recovery to 2003. The decline was most noticeable in north-west Yorkshire, but population densities in East Yorkshire BBS squares showed an increase.

VC 61 In the Tophill area, 14 pairs bred, with 35 pairs along Hornsea Rail trail and 28 pairs at Spurn. Fifty were in set-a-side at Broomfleet on 8th February. In comparison to Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*, this species showed a good spring passage at Spurn with 5791 south between 13th March and 19th June. At Flamborough, there was a strong breeding presence, and flocks of 355 on 22nd January, 420 on 31st July and 630 on 7th October. At Filey, a flock of 120 lingered on 20th September, with a total of 450 on 4th October. In autumn at Spurn, 5891 flew south between 7th September and 30th November: there were only two counts over 500-537 on 28th September and 508 on 11th October.

VC 62 Plenty of birds were present in the area throughout the year. Outside the breeding season reasonable sized flocks are not an uncommon sight. Additionally many birds are noted moving down the coast in the spring and more noticeably in the autumn. Three hundred were near Burniston Road on the 4th March, 160 were at Old Scarborough Tip on the 21st March, 188 flew north at Hummersea on 11th April and 50 were on Star Carr on the 8th May. 224 went south past Long Nab in four hours on the 2nd May. About 2000 were logged moving south past Long Nab, mainly in September, with *c*.350 at Boulby on 5th and 310 at Hummersea on 8th September.

VC 63 The Halifax area had 128 records from twenty eight sites with birds occurring between 13th March and 25th November. Swillington Ings held a regular wintering flock of 300 throughout January and February with smaller numbers during the summer months with numbers increasing to around 300 in August. Potteric Carr recorded 200 on 2nd January with smaller numbers until May. The largest flocks reported elsewhere were 35 at Carleton on 22nd April, 150 at Cononley Lead Mine on 17th August, with 103 at Cononley on 9th September and 60 at Soil Hill, 60 at Doe Park and 50 at Roils Head also in September. Wintersett noted 20 birds on breeding territory and a flock of 300 in September. At least 14 pairs were recorded in territories at Old Moor Wetlands where there was a peak count of 90 on 20th September. At least 80 were feeding in the fields to the west of Blackmoorfoot Res. during September. At Beal Carrs linseed and corn stubbles also attracted good numbers of this species as part of a mixed finch flock with *c*.275 and *c*.350 present 28th and 30th September respectively. Up to *c*.300 remained at the site until mid-October until the seed supply became exhausted. Seed also attracted birds to Sprotborough Flash with 150+ present in another mixed finch flock feeding on uncut rape towards end of the year.

VC 64 Flocks included: 35 at Sharow on 21st January, 60 at Plumpton on 16th February 50 at Bellflask Quarry on 9th April and 70 at Tockwith on 17th. Although only two breeding records received, post-breeding flocks included 35 at Barden on 8th July, 80 at Staveley NR on 3rd August, with 200 at Spofforth to the month end, 50 at Ripon Racecourse on 21st, 100 at Roecliffe Moor on 26th and 90 at Hay-a-Park on 30th.

VC 65 Fairly common resident: 55 were at Nosterfield NR on 12th February and Leighton Res had 60 on 29th October. At Nosterfield NR present all year with several breeding pairs - maxima were 30 to 70 in August/ September with 78 on 9th October and 40 on 8th November.

TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris* A

Red list: scarce resident breeder in Pennines; uncommon migrant/ winter visitor

Birds of the British race *pipilans* breed colonially on moorlands in Scotland, Ireland and in the South Pennines SPA, where about 200 pairs bred in 2005, down from between 387 and 600 in 1999. Some Yorkshire populations winter locally but most migrate south-east to the North Sea coast from Donna Nook to northern France. Has declined in the Yorkshire Dales, where now breeds in just a few areas, but feeding stations have been established. The origins of wintering flocks on the Yorkshire coast are uncertain, one but colour-ringed bird at Flamborough was from the South Pennines.

VC 61 Four birds seen on 17th January at North Cave Wetlands were only the second record for the reserve. Thirteen were on the cliff top between Grimston and Ringborough Farm on 25th January. Small numbers wintered in both periods at or near Paull Holme Strays: 11 on 13th February and 10 on 4th December were peak counts. Unusually, 14 were at Ellerton Ings on 3rd March. At Flamborough, the wintering flock peaked at 45 on 30th January, with birds passing in autumn from 14th October, and 55 on 17th November the highest count. At Filey there were two on 19th March, and then two on 24th October, but by 29th October, 60 were on Carr Naze. Small numbers were seen on other East Yorkshire cliff tops in autumn and winter: in October, five at Grimston on 5th, 14 at Atwick on 30th, with 31 regularly seen at BPNR and Sammy's Point from 5th November to the year-end and six at East Newton on 29th December. Not recorded at Spurn until one on 17th September, with a further 25 south to 12th November.

VC 62 At Redcar, 42 were recorded on 13th March. A lack of coastal stubble in the Scarborough area is thought to account for the paucity of records - just two:- one went south over Cromer Point on the 31st

October and three were on the cliffs at Jackson's Bay on the 5th November. Four were at Boulby on 17th October, one at South Gare on 16th November and three near Gillamoor on 27th December.
VC 63 Recorded at sixteen upland sites in the Halifax area between 27th February and 10th December with breeding suspected at several sites. Three feeding stations using nyjer seeds were established at Cold Edge where a maximum of seven birds were seen; Fly Flatts with a maximum of 27 in March and Whiteholme where 32 were noted from September to November, decreasing to 30 in December. Birds are colour-ringed at Light Hazzle feeding station on the VC 63/59 border – 232 were caught in 2005. There were double figure counts of 12 at Thornton Moor on 20th March, Leeshaw Res on 10th April and 20 at Warley Moor Res on 17th and 27 on 23rd. In April one flew over Haw Park and one was singing from an Ash tree on 3rd, and two birds were seen regularly in the fields to the west of Blackmoorfoot Res from 22nd to 8th May. Later in the year these fields held at least 46 birds in August, up to 50 in September, with numbers decreasing until the last sighting on 16th October. Fourteen were at Leeshaw on 29th August and 10 on Soil Hill on 19th October. At Beal Carrs two to eight birds recorded on 12 dates between 5th September and 15th October. At Deer Hill Res 17 birds over-wintered.
VC 64 Once a stronghold of this species, Grimwith Res had only two on 18th July. Thirteen were on Pateley Moor on 8th August when 10 were at Greygarth. Fifty were at Greenhow on 1st October.
VC 65 One was at Nosterfield NR on 12th February, with a single at Birk Gill, Colsterdale on 3rd July and five at Leighton Res on 27th October. Nosterfield NR again had singles on 6th November and 10th/11th December.

LESSER REDPOLL *Carduelis cabaret* A
Amber list: uncommon to scarce breeder, fairly common passage migrant/winter visitor. BBS 4/166

Breeds in northern and south-east Britain, wintering to the south, this tree dependent species seemed to become scarcer in the late 1990's, in line with a national decrease, but 2005 showed an increase in casual sightings.
VC 61 Only recorded in spring at Spurn, where scarce – two on 4th April and singles on 23rd, 29th, and 30th and 11th May and at Flamborough, where one on 8th May. There were very few inland records although under-recorded in the west: 40 were at Wheldrake Ings in late October. There were occasional reports of up to three at North Cave Wetlands from 23rd October to 27th December, with two occasionally at Welton Water between 2nd October and 7th November, two at PHENR on 14th October and one on 5th December, and singles near Beverly in December on Swinemoor on 21st and at Figham on 27th. More frequent on the coast: recorded at Filey from 5th September, four on 12th, a peak of 10 on 9th October and then singles to 5th December. Noted at Flamborough as getting scarcer each year – nine on 20th September and 18 on 24th were the first of the autumn, with 49 on 15th October as part of the influx of birds. It was, however, a very good autumn for this species at Spurn. Between 12th September and 16th November a total of 1403 flew south giving high counts of 173 on 9th, 89 on 11th and 15th, and 80 on 26th October, and 100 on 5th November.
VC 62 Birds are resident in the forests but only recorded breeding at Lockwood Beck Res and Wilton Moor. Although there were only two spring records in the Scarborough area, autumn passage was relatively good: regular counts at Long Nab recorded over a hundred passing south in September. The highest count was of 59 passing in one hour on the 23rd. In October, 85 went south there on the 11th and 42 on the 31st.
VC 63 Most locations reported a quiet year the exception being the Halifax area which had a fifty per cent increase in records with breeding proven at Roils Head when two juveniles were seen. Small numbers were seen at most sites to the end of March, the largest flocks being 60 at Jay House Lane Halifax, and 50 at Haw Park in March. At Southfield Res one flying north on 13th April was the only record until the 24th September. It was a poor year at Old Moor Wetlands, with only small numbers recorded in the early months and no summer records between 26th of March and 19th of September. The highest count of the year at Old Moor was 15 in October and December. In the autumn 51 flew south at Swillington Ings on 25th September with smaller flocks regularly moving south into October. Blacktoft Sands RSPB had a good autumn passage with birds passing over almost daily and several parties stopping to feed on willowherb seed. Highest monthly counts were 13 on 29th September, 20 on 6th October, five on 15th November and three on 2nd December. At Southfield Res, 50 seen on 7th October was an unusually high count. It was then recorded on nine dates in November and on nine dates in December; the maximum counts for these months were six on 10th and 30th of November and 20 were on Went Ings on 25th December. 100 were at Paul Clough on 2nd October and Potteric Carr had 49 on 16th October and 14 on 1st November.
VC 64 Small parties of up to 25 were noted from scattered sites, with counts of 75 at Haverah Park on 18th January and 50 on 7th February. During this period 30 were at Sunnydale Res and St Ives with 40 in the Lower Washburn Valley and 60 at St Ives in April and May, while 60 were at Timble Ings in November.
VC 65 Fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor, the largest flock was 100 at North Wood, Leighton Res on 29th January. At Foxglove Covert 45 birds were ringed.

COMMON (MEALY) REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea* A
Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

This species, formerly known as Mealy Redpoll, (separated from *Carduelis cabaret* by BOU in 2001) breeds further north than *cabaret*, across northern Europe, through Asia to North America. Subspecies also breed in south Greenland and Iceland. During eruption autumns, large numbers migrate through or winter in the

county. Flyover birds are difficult to identify, and may be reported as Redpoll *sp.*
VC 61 One was at Spurn Point on 14th April. The first of autumn were on 14th October when two were in Kilnsea and Filey recorded a single. Further singles were at Filey on 31st October and 1st November, with nine at Filey Dams on 9th November. Six were at Flamborough on 15th October, and a further seven were reported to 5th November and the pattern was similar at Spurn, with one on 15th October, then one to four were seen on nine dates with a late bird at the Warren on 27th November. Inland, two were at PHENR on 5th November, one at Wheldrake Ings from 18th to 20th November, and one at Sammy's Point Easington on 8th December.
VC 62 In October, one was observed at Cloughton on the 15th, singles were trapped at South Gare on 16th and 20th, three were at Moorgates near Goathland on 18th and singles at Boulby on 25th and 27th. Two were on Cayton Carrs, with four Lesser Redpolls, on the 4th December.
VC 63 At least three were at Little Don Valley on 9th April with a single at Cowell Flat on 17th April. One was caught and ringed at The Ruin, Wintersett on 27th October. Two gave good views at Beal Carrs on 29th October; two were reported at Onesmoor and Fatty Boyns Ponds on 10th and 11th December and one at Pit-house West on 27th December.
VC 64 Three were at St Ives on 26th February, one at Follifoot Ridge on 4th December and two at Thorlby on 18th.

CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra* A
Scarce breeding resident, occasionally in numbers following irruption years. BBS 1/166

Resident in conifer woodland across the Palearctic and North America, nominate *curvirostra* includes further forms identifiable by bill size and call, one of which breeds in the county, and others may do so following irruptions.
VC 61 Occasional records from late spring at Spurn included singles on 29th May, 4th and 26th to 27th June, 4th and 11th July. A juvenile at a garden bird feeder in Patrington on 25th June was unexpected. In July, one was in Easington on 17th and six flew over Allerthorpe Old Pits on 30th. At Flamborough, there were 24 on 28th June and four on 3rd August, with other August sightings including 10 at Weaverthorpe on 1st and one over PHENR on 20th. Five flew south at Spurn on 10th September, and there were then a number of late autumn sightings from a number of localities, including singles at Easington, Grimston, Filey and Wheldrake Ings, 11 at Spurn, 10 at Flamborough, two over North Duffield Carrs, two at Atwick, and Tophill Low (11 on 29th October).
VC 62 As in 2004 only relatively low numbers were noted in the forests. Seven in Wykeham Forest on the 9th January included three singing males. By far the highest count of the year was of 100 at the same spot on the 9th June. Other counts in Wykeham forest included 30 on the 31st July and 23 on the 29th October. Nine were at Egton on 19th June, 20 were at Adderstone Rigg, Dalby Forest on the 17th July, 11 at Sykes House on 25th July, 30+ on Yearsley Moor on 4th August and 20 on Stainburn Moor on 22nd October. Two at Long Nab on 11th October were likely immigrants, and two were also seen at Skelton Castle in November and December.
VC 63 Four flew over Haw Park, Wintersett on 28th May and 5th November, followed by a single on 20th. One flew over Swillington Ings on 19th June, 23 over Midgley, Halifax on 11th and 12th July and one over Walshaw Dean on 6th November. A flock of nine was at Potteric Carr on 5th June. Four were reported at Strines Res on 11th June and two were reported in Wath on 2nd July. Southfield Res had four on 31st October.
VC 64 Interestingly the reported influx into the Harrogate area from June to October was not repeated elsewhere. Forty were at Timble Ings on 21st June, 15 at Ellington Banks on 25th and 26th with ten on 20th July, 12 at Barden Scale on 25th and ten at Harlow Carr Gardens on 28th. Twenty-five were at Sawley Hall on 2nd August, 13 at Harlow Carr Gardens on 13th and ten at Ellington Banks on 15th. In September, 45 were at Farnhill Moor on 6th with 32 on 20th. There was then a gap until 20 at Timble Ings on 11th October with 15 on 23rd. Eleven were at Harlow Carr Gardens on three dates in December with 16 at Sawley Hall on 17th and 10 at Timble Ings on 24th.
VC 65 Singles flew over Cleasby GP on 9th and 10th August and five flew over Breary Banks on 9th October. A single bird was caught and ringed at Foxglove Covert only the third bird to be caught at this site.

COMMON ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus erythrinus* A 15,10,3,8,5
Amber list: scarce passage migrant; occasional rare breeder (first in 1992)

This species winters in southern Asia, but its breeding range across northern Eurasia has expanded westwards to reach Scandinavia this century, and it has bred sporadically in Britain since 1982 and Yorkshire since 1992.
VC 61 Two found at the Warren, Spurn, on 11th September, but soon flew off north (JGr *et al.*) and one was seen briefly at the Point on 16th September (PC). Single immatures were seen at Flamborough Head in October, near the Old Lighthouse on 5th (RB) and at Northcliffe on 16th (PAL).

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* A
Red list and UK BAP species: uncommon breeder; scarce passage migrant/ winter visitor
BBS 13/166

Birds of the British and Irish race *pileata* are non-migratory, and the marked decline since the 1970's must

be attributable to changes in agricultural practices. Nominate race birds from Fennoscandia ("Northern Bullfinch") can migrate long distances and are occasional east coast migrants.
VC 61 Breeds thinly across the VC, with three pairs at Tophill Low. Presumed migrants were at Filey on 26th, 27th and 29th October and 18th November. Two Northern Bullfinches were at Flamborough on 15th October and one on 22nd.
VC 62 A widespread breeder, four pairs were at Wykeham Lakes on the 31st March. Several pairs were seen or heard in Raincliffe Woods in May. On the 16th October 15+ were along the railway track between Cloughton and Hayburn Wyke.
VC 63 Numbers appear to be on the increase with the Halifax area reporting an increase from 67 reports to 95 on the previous year with breeding confirmed at a number of sites. Twenty-five birds were in breeding habitat in the Wintersett area with a survey in January producing a possible 50 birds in the area. Fairburn Ings RSPB recorded at least six birds each month with a maximum count of sixteen in January. Two pairs bred at Pugneys CP, up to four birds were noted on several occasions at Rodley NR, and a minimum of ten birds at Swillington Ings. In South Yorkshire a small population is holding on in suitable habitats. Seven pairs bred at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB where there was a peak count of 20 on 15th December. Potteric Carr had peak counts of 12 on 9th January and eight on 16th October but no evidence of breeding.
VC 64 Single figure counts came from throughout the area in all months with family parties in July and August, the only counts of note being ten at Ellington Banks on 23rd January and 25 at Esholt SW on 15th October. Five on Pock Stone's Moor on 18th December appeared to be feeding on heather.
VC 65 Thinly but widely distributed resident, maximum flock size at High Batts NR was eight birds. Foxglove Covert ringed 149 birds in the year.

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* A
Amber list: scarce breeding resident, absent from higher ground and south-east

This Palearctic species is scarce in the UK (3000 – 5000 pairs) and in long-term decline, and this appears to be the case in the county. Occasional migrants are seen on the coast, and some continental birds arrived on 15th October.
VC 61 There were no records of birds from any woodland except one in Escrick Park on 18th December, and it is no longer present at Humber Bridge CP. In spring, one was at Flamborough Head on 27th March and one at Spurn on 17th April. In autumn, one was in Kilnsea on 13th September, while in October, one was trapped at Spurn on 11th remaining to 13th, two to three in Easington on 15th and another at Spurn also on 15th when one was also at Flamborough, and one remained in Kilnsea from 15th to 17th. In November, one was at Flamborough on 12th and one at Thorganby on 18th. One at Parish Wood, Filey on 5th December was Filey's fifth record.
VC 62 A single flew over Eastfield, Scarborough on the 28th April, one to two were at Skelton Castle between 3rd May and 2nd June and one was in Escrick Park on 18th December. Single migrants were noted in October at Scaling Dam on 13th, Hummersea on 15th and Saltburn Cliffs on 29th.
VC 63 Has declined over the last ten years, although a slight increase I records over 2004. Two were around the north side of the Upper Lake, Bretton CP on 14th January. One was in the Worsborough Valley on 14th March and singles at four sites around Sheffield between 14th May and 29th December. Migrants in October flew over Beal Carrs on 14th, Redmires Res on 27th and Rod Moor on 28th. One was at Wombwell Ings on 18th December.
VC 64 A single bird was at Timble Ings on 1st, 5th and 21st January. The normal stronghold of Studley Park held a maximum of only four on 7th March with no more than two during November and December. One flew over Staveley NR on 21st September and one was at Littlethorpe on 12th November, with one at Fountains Abbey visitors centre on 4th December.

LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus* A
Scarce to uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor; rare inland

A regular winter visitor from the Arctic and northernmost Europe,
VC 61 Small numbers were seen on the coast in both winter periods, with the last of spring on 9th April at Flamborough, where just two sightings, both in April, and the first of autumn on 10th September was also at Flamborough. Recorded at the following sites on dates between January and March (maximum numbers in brackets): Aldbrough (8 on 27th January), Atwick (1), Bempton (2), East Newton (1), Filey (1), Grimston (3) and Spurn (2). In autumn, most records were in October and November, (site maxima in brackets) from: BPNR (1), Cowden (3), Filey (7 on 14th October), Flamborough (3), Fraisthorpe (1), Grimston (3), and Spurn (3).
VC 62 A very poor year with just a few records. In the spring a male was at Cromer Point on the 16th March and two were at Cowbar on 1st April, with one to 2nd. In the autumn, one was noted moving south over Long Nab on the 23rd September, and one in stubble at Cromer Point on the 25th. Singles in October were at Redcar on 11th, Boulby on 12th, Ness Point on 15th and Boulby on 21st and one was at Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on the 15th November.
VC 63 A female or immature was seen near the main lake at Pugneys CP on 22nd March and three were at Rod Moor on 28th September (KC).
VC 65 A rare winter visitor, one flew east over Nosterfield NR calling at 1740 on 8th October (SPW).

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis* **A**
Amber list: uncommon winter visitor; scarce inland

Breeds in the circumpolar arctic tundra, with small numbers in the Scottish Highlands, most of our wintering birds are probably from Iceland.
VC 61 There were good numbers on the coast in both winter periods. Counts in January included 40 at Flamborough, 50 at Aldbrough and 140 at Grimston while one flew over Brough Airfield Marsh on 22nd. In February, 48 were seen at Atwick and 10 at Paull Holme Strays. The last of the spring was at Flamborough on 9th April, and the first of autumn were eight at Carr Naze, Filey on 17th September. Numbers in autumn built up through October and peaked in November. Counts in that month included 60 at Filey, 85 at Flamborough, 100 at Fraisthorpe, 40 at East Newton, 85 at Grimston, 45 at Holmpton, 30 at BPNR and 28 at Paull Holme Strays. At Spurn in autumn 160 flew south and 44 came in off the sea, including 46 south and 37 in-off on 14th November. In December, numbers were lower although 52 were seen at Atwick and 100 were still at Ringborough Farm, East Newton. In Hull, 35 were by the Ferry terminal on 16th December.
VC 62 There were few records in the first winter period; in January 92 were at Cowbar on 8th, 18 at Long Nab on the 9th, 80-100 were at Port Mulgrave on 16th, *c.*40 at South Gare in January to February, and in February 40 at Scalby Lodge Pond on the 2nd (including a leucistic bird). Twenty were feeding near the car park of the Lion Inn at Blakey Ridge on 27th and 28th February, a traditional inland site. In March, up to 15 were noted in the Scalby Lodge and Long Nab area between the 12th and 23rd. A late bird was at Cowbar on 17th April.
The first returning birds were at South Gare on 9th September, then a gap until 15th October. Small numbers were subsequently seen at coastal sites, with higher counts in November including 25 near the hotel at Ravenscar on 6th, 20 at Jackson's Field on the 15th, 30 at Crook Ness on the 19th, 12 moved north over Castle Hill on the 21st, 24 at Runswick Bay on 24th and 20 were at Long Nab on the 27th. In December, *c.* 50 were at Cowbar and up to 28 at South Gare, with singles at Scalby Lodge Pond on the 19th and Long Nab on the 26th.
VC 63 A single was at Soil Hill on 13th January, four at Thornton Moor Res on 25th September, five on 10th October and one on 13th. Two were at Strines on 13th November, singles flew over Blacktoft Sands RSPB heading west on 15th November, 2nd December and 12th December and Southfield Res had one flying north on 28th November and one on stubble on 6th December. One was calling as it flew north-west over Anglers Country Park, Wintersett during the afternoon of 26th December.
VC 64 A dead bird was found at Guisecliffe on 9th December.
VC 65 Scarce irregular winter visitor. A single bird flew east at Nosterfield NR on 22nd February and a male was at Lingham Lake from 21st to 23rd March.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella* **A**
Red list: fairly common resident and passage migrant
BBS 86/166: -14% (-19) decrease 1994-2005, 9% (7) increase 2004-5

A welcome if small upturn in fortunes this year for this largely sedentary bunting that breeds in the West and central Palearctic. Remains much more numerous in North Yorkshire than elsewhere in the county.
VC 61 Still widespread but few sizeable flocks recorded; the only two counts above 40 were 150 at Burdale and 75 at Wetwang in January and 70 at Muston Grange in February. The Hornsea Rail Trail survey found 41 breeding pairs. Some evidence of immigration in autumn, with one observed in-off at Filey on 24th October. At Spurn, movements reflect the sedentary nature, with just 23 south in spring, and 15 in autumn between 22nd September and 11th November, with five of these on the latter date.
VC 62 A widespread breeder on arable land. Few records were received; 15 were at Burniston on the 3rd January, and immigration was noted with 18 at Hummersea on 15th October and 14 in off at Boulby on 17th.
VC 63 A widespread arable land breeder. Forty-one birds on breeding territory in the Wintersett area, 20 singing males at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB and three singing males at Bradley Hall Farm Halifax were the only breeding records received. Flocks in the first winter period included 70 on 4th January at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB, 33 at a winter feeding station at Beal Carrs on 9th January and 30 at Wintersett also in January. Small numbers were present throughout the year at Fairburn Ings RSPB, Swillington Ings and Pugneys CP. Larger flocks were noted at Southfield Res in late autumn with 60+ on the 29th November, 30 at Skelton Lake and 22 at Pugneys CP in October.
VC 64 Remains an uncommon bird in the BOG area with only a maximum of seven birds at Weecher on 15th January and five birds at Baildon during May. The feeding stations at Staveley NR provided some encouraging figures with 356 on 12th March, 150 on 23rd, 114 on 31st. Up to 30 were recorded from other smaller feeding sites with 50 at Ripon Parks in December. Elsewhere: 40 at Wetherby on 3rd March with smaller double figures from Little Ribston and Tockwith.
VC 65 Thinly distributed breeding resident and winter visitor mainly to the east of the VC. High Batts had a maximum of 41 in the early months of the year and 30 at the later end of the year. Sixty were in a game crop at Breary Banks on 26th December.

ORTOLAN BUNTING *Emberiza hortulana* **A** 2,2,2,1,1

Rare passage migrant, mainly in autumn

Breeds from Spain north-east through continental Europe to Scandinavia and east to western Siberia and Mongolia, and winters from Arabia west through sub-Saharan Africa.

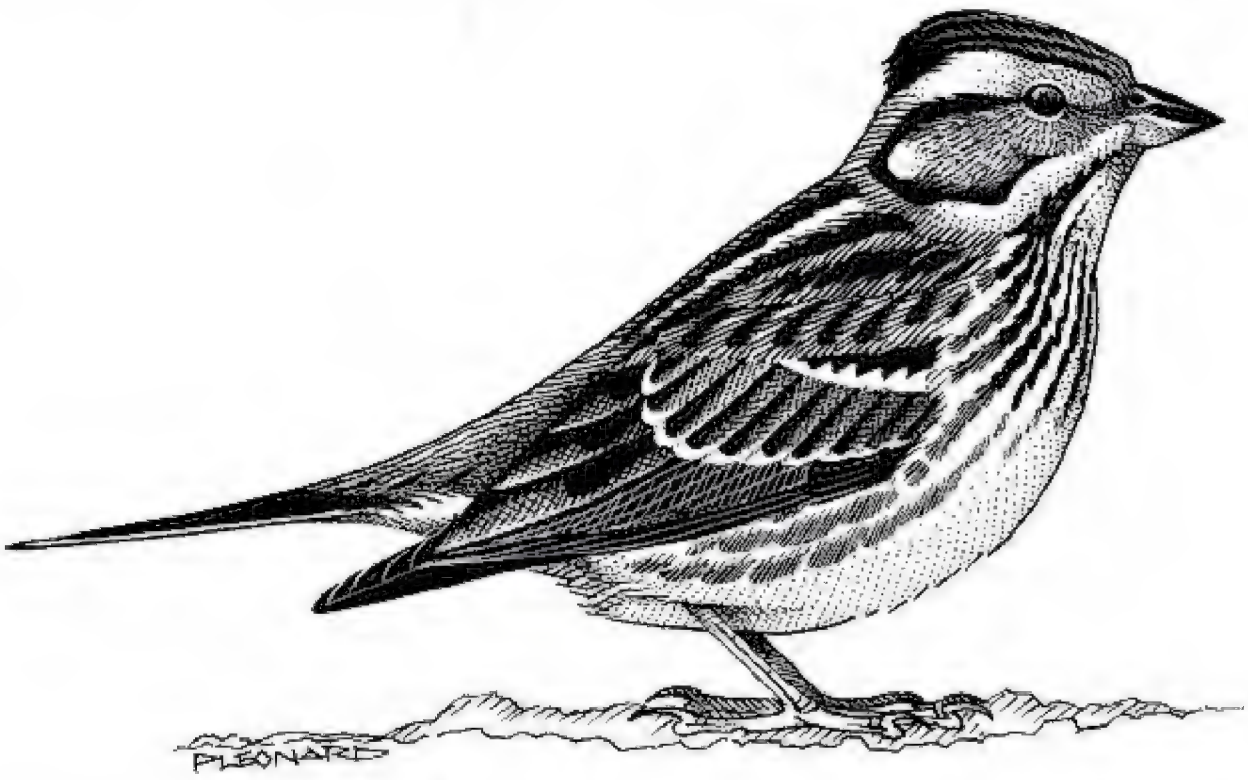
VC 61 Just one at Filey CP on Long Lane on 3rd September, during a period of easterly winds (AN *et al.*). This obliging bird foraged in the field and the side of the track until 5th September.

RUSTIC BUNTING *Emberiza rustica* **A** 1,0,0,0,2

Rare passage migrant, mainly in autumn; 34 previous records (35 birds)

This species breeds in the boreal forest edges from Sweden east to Siberia, migrating in a south-easterly direction to winter in East Asia.

VC 61 A first-winter male was at Bempton from 15th to 17th October (MA *et al.*). An immature was seen in the Point dunes at Spurn from 15th to 18th October (IDC: RJS *et al.*).



Rustic Bunting

LITTLE BUNTING *Emberiza pusilla* **A** 5,2,0,0,4

Rare passage migrant, mainly in autumn; 53 previous records (55 birds)

Breeds from Scandinavia eastwards to the Sea of Okhotsk and winters from Turkestan to south-east Asia and China. There have been a small number of wintering records from Britain in recent years.

VC 61 Three different birds were seen at Spurn in autumn. An elusive bird was present in the Point dunes on 17th and 18th September (GT: AR *et al.*), one in the Triangle on 15th October (GCT: GP) and probably the same bird on 16th (TMc), and one was present in the Point dunes from 16th to 27th October (MGS *et al.*).

VC 62 One was trapped and ringed at South Gare on 28th October (DAM).

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus* **A**

Red list and UK BAP species: fairly common breeding resident and passage migrant. BBS 40/166

A Palearctic species which is largely resident in the county, joined by immigrants from Scandinavian in winter. After a long-term decline nationally, has recently increased. BBS figures suggest the decline in North Yorkshire seems to have leveled off in 2005, with a comparatively good year in East Yorkshire.

VC 61 At Tophill Low, 15-16 pairs bred, (13 in 2004), while at Spurn eight singing males represents an increase by one on the previous year. In the breeding season, up to 17 were recorded at Welton Waters/ Brough Airfield and 20 at PHENR. Six pairs bred along Hornsea Rail Trail. In the autumn, 302 flew south at Spurn between 8th September and 13th December.

VC 62 In the breeding season pairs were noted at various sites, including five pairs at both Star Carr and Wykeham Lakes. Migrants included 45 at South Gare on 12th October.

VC 63 It would appear that this species has increased in numbers in recent years with Wintersett recording 71 birds on breeding territory, 20 at Swillington Ings, a minimum of eleven at Pugneys CP and two pairs at Rodley NR. Eighty records were received from eighteen sites in the Halifax area with the largest flock being

thirty at Gorple Gates in February. At Cold Edge Dams there were 15 on 25th where four pairs in May. No breeding figures were received for Fairburn Ings RSPB but flocks of 38 in March, 40 in September and 47 in October were noted. A sample survey at Blacktoft Sands RSPB would suggest no significant change from the last full reserve survey when 275 pairs found. There were peak counts at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB of 80 on 7th January and 10th December. In May 52 males held territory. At Beal Carrs 24 were trapped and ringed on 4th October with a further 14 being ringed there on 7th October as birds dispersed through the site. In October, 15 were at Denholme Clough on 2nd and 35 roosted at Potteric Carr on 21st November.
VC 64 Counts included 24 at Stocksbridge on 23rd January and 40 at Staveley NR in February where 50 in March. Eleven were at Otley Wetland on 3rd May, 14 at Staveley NR on 5th June included some feeding young with 33 at Norwood Lane at year end. Bred at Bingley North Moor, Otley Wetland, Pool Mill, Staveley NR and Stocksbridge.
VC 65 Thinly distributed in suitable habitat. Nosterfield NR had 13 in stubbles on 9th January and four were at Breary Banks on 26th December. Two pairs bred at both Nosterfield NR and the Reedbed at Flask's Lake and 39 were ringed in the Catterick area.

CORN BUNTING *Emberiza calandra* A
Red list and UK BAP species: uncommon breeding resident, not on higher ground. BBS 14/166

Breeding in open-country from the Mediterranean to western China, it is a nationally decreasing (-27% 1994-2005) species that depends on cereal stubble in winter, a habitat in decline. BBS figures suggest a possible further range contraction in East Yorkshire, although densities in North Yorkshire increased slightly in 2005.
VC 61 Forty were near Tophill Low on 14th January, while at North Cave Wetlands, 34 present on 23rd January was a new site record count, with 28 on 9th February. On the other hand, breeders are now down to a handful of pairs at Flamborough, and no wintering flock was found, and it was an exceptionally poor year at Filey, with just three records. A total of 25 flew south at Spurn between 17th April and 26th May, including a very good count (by today's standards!) of 10 on 2nd May, but outside this period there were only a handful of singles. Singing birds were present west of the Wolds at Allerthorpe, Bielby and Wheldrake and along the Market Weighton Canal near North Cliffe; on the Wolds at North Newbald and Riplingham; at sites in the Hull Valley including Brandesburton, Bewholme, Catwick, PHENR and Preston and further east in Holderness on Sunk Island.
VC 62 A localised breeding bird, occurring only in The Carrs in recent years. Yet again there were no coastal records of birds either holding territory or wintering in the few stubble fields. Most of the records came from Willerby Carr: three were singing there on the 22nd March, and birds continued to be seen in April and May. Ten were located there on the 23rd October. One was at Hummersea on 29th October.
VC 63 Breeds in pockets of suitable habitat in the south and east of the VC. Southfield Res recorded birds in every month except June and August. In the first half of the year a flock peaked at 40+ on 2nd February. In December there were 100+ on the 22nd and 150÷ on the 24th. 42 were at Beal Carrs on 20th November. In West Yorkshire, this species has continued to decline so much so that the only record received was of a single bird feeding by the path between Lowther Lake and St Aidan's Swillington Ings on 19th March.
VC 64 Only small numbers of solitary singing males were recorded from seven sites in the eastern part of the Harrogate district.
VC 65 A thinly distributed breeding bird on the eastern fringe of the VC. Lingham Lake had flocks of 29 on 30th April, 36 on 1st May and 21 on 22nd April. Four breeding males, possibly with more than one mate, bred in the fields around Nosterfield NR and Lingham Lake.

CATEGORY B

Species that were recorded in Britain in an apparently wild state prior to 31st December 1949, but are not accepted by **BOURC** as having occurred naturally since then. Ruddy Shelduck has now been moved into this category.

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea* (N Africa, S Eurasia) BDE*
Rare vagrant; feral/escapes confuse status

Some Yorkshire records of this species occur in the summer and autumn months on the Humber, especially the upper Humber area. Approximately 300 post-breeding moulting birds of presumably feral origin occur in the Netherlands at that time, and it is possible that some overshoot. Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* that leave Yorkshire to moult in the Waddenzee area of Germany may also "pick up" Ruddy Shelduck on their return later in autumn. Other birds escape from collections however.
VC 63 A pair at Edderthorpe Flash 2nd to 7th August then moved to Old Moor Wetlands RSPB and remained in area from until 17th of August before over-flying Edderthorpe again on their way to Wintersett Res (BE *et al.*). These at least fit the summer pattern of occurrence. One was at Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 15th November.
VC 64 One was present at Grimwith Res from 23rd June to 21st July.

CATEGORY D

Species whose status is being monitored the **BOURC** (see *Ibis 136: p253).*
Unfortunately, neither of the entries in this category is a true candidate for this classification, and belongs firmly in Category E.

MARBLED DUCK *Marmaronetta angustirostris* **(W Eurasia, N Africa) DE**
One was seen at Broomhill Flash from 11th to 14th August, sporting a yellow ring.

BALD EAGLE *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* **(N America) DE**
An escaped adult was seen on the hard shoulder of the A1 near Ripon on 27th February.

CATEGORY E

Species that have been recorded as introductions, transportees or escapees from captivity, and whose breeding populations, if any, are thought not to be self-sustaining. Category E species form no part of the British List. The range and status on the BOU category C or E list is given after the name, as some species fall into more than one category. These letters follow the publication of the BOURC's review of Category C (*Ibis* 147: 803-819).

BLACK SWAN *Cygnus atratus* **(Australia, New Zealand) E***
Seen frequently at Wansford, with one also at Skirlington throughout. A long-staying bird was reported from Fairburn Ings. Two were a Bingley on 1st March and on 17th June, two at Scalby Mills on the 30th March; two went south past Long Nab on the 15th May, a single at Filey Dams on 16th May, with one at North Cave Wetlands the following day and one on Hornsea Mere on 28th June. One was at Southfield Res on 13th May, with three there on 20th, and three flying east on 11th September. Two introduced birds were present on Peasholm Park throughout the summer, with three there on the 29th September, with one at Seamer Road Mere on the 23rd September. One was at Thorlby on 19th November.

SWAN GOOSE *Anser cygnoides* **(NC Asia, Siberia) E***
One was at Farnham GP on 3rd December.

LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser erythropus* **(N Eurasia) AE***
A first-summer bird was at East Park, Hull on 20th to 24th June (RL *et al.*). It or another, accompanied by Greylags *Anser anser*, was at Rimswell on 30th and 31st October (TI: AFJ). Photographic evidence is inconclusive but it may have been one that has toured North Lincolnshire in recent years. The East Park bird re-appeared on 30th November, remaining to 20th December.

Lesser Whitefronted Goose — Photo: Roy Lyon

BAR-HEADED GOOSE *Anser indicus* **(Central Asia) E***
One flew south at Spurn Point on 29th April, and four south there on 21st May. One was at Lowther Lake on 22nd and 24th April and 15th May. Presumably the same bird reappeared at Astley Lake, Swillington Ings on 6th August and was seen there on and off for the rest of the year. One was at Anglers CP from 20th to 22nd May and two were at Coatham Marsh on 31st May.

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens* **(N America & Greenland) AC2E***
One of unknown origin with Greylags *Anser anser* near North Cave Wetlands on 28th December.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis* **(E Greenland, Svalbard, Russia) AC2E***
Parties of 4, 5, 6 and 8 were reported from 11 sites in the Harrogate area throughout the year, and up to eight occasionally at either Filey Dams or Primrose Valley Pond throughout. A pair was present at the latter site during the summer, but no proof of successful breeding. One was at Scalby Lodge Pond from 17th to 23rd July, with another single there on 27th August and 1st September, and nearby at Station Road, Scalby on 14th September. Presumably the same wandering individual was at Harwood Dale Lake on 31st July and 20th August and Wykeham Lakes on 19th to 21st September. Five were at Burton Riggs on 21st August. Inland records included single birds of doubtful origin at Fairburn Ings RSPB from 19th to 20th February and from the beginning of June to various dates in August. Three were at Beal Carrs on 28th March and one at Potteric Carr with Canada Geese between 29th May and 7th June and one on Broomhill Flash on 17th of June.

RED-BREASTED GOOSE *Branta ruficollis* **(N C Siberia) AE**
One flew west at Pugney's CP on 9th January. An approachable adult was on Kirkholme, Hornsea Mere on 14th and 15th June.

CAPE/SOUTH AFRICAN SHELDUCK *Tadorna cana* **(S Africa) E**
One reported at Worsborough Res in January and 10th to 20th February.

MUSCOVY DUCK *Cairina moschata* **(C & S America) E***
Two were at Ogden Water on 3rd January, two at Myrtholmroyd on 27th March, three at Leeming Res on 10th April and two at Hebden Bridge on 17th October. Two birds were on the canal at Woodlesford in late summer were accompanied by four ducklings.

RINGED TEAL *Callonetta leucophrys* **(C & S America) E**
One from 2004 was still at Bingley on 1st January. Three were at Rother Valley CP on 16th October.

WOOD DUCK *Aix sponsa* **(N America) E***
A tame female was on the River Tees at Stockton from 2004 to 7th May. A male was grazing among Greylag Geese at Nosterfield NR on 3rd January. One was at Sandbeds Flash on 23rd April. A drake was on Lingham Lake, Nosterfield on 5th June, with one also reported from Old Moor RSPB that month. A female on the canal at Hebden Bridge on 10th November and one in Sheffield on 18th November at Crookes Park.

CHILOË WIGEON *Anas sibilatrix* **(S S America) E**
A pair of colour-ringed birds was at Wintersett Res on 9th July.

WHITE-CHEEKED PINTAIL ***Anas bahamensis*** **(S America, Caribbean) E**
One at Potteric Carr between 20th and 24th November (SMB: RWB)

RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina* **(SW Eurasia) AC2E**
A pinioned pair on East Park Lake, Hull.

REEVES'S PHEASANT *Syrmaticus reevesii* **(China) E***
Four males with released Common Pheasants at Washdyke Bridge (SE866495) on 20th October (WFC).

GOLDEN PHEASANT *Chrysolophus pictus* **(China) C1E***
Escaped or deliberately released species; has bred
A male was at Burley Woodhead on 3rd December.

HARRIS'S HAWK *Parabuteo unicinctus* **(C & S America) E**
One was at Carlton Hall, Rothwell on 1st January and again in early November. One was at Sharow Mires from 10th March to the year end, whilst one that hit a building in Knaresborough on 9th April subsequently died. One was in Shipley Glen on 11th August.

SAKER *Falco cherrug* **(S Eurasia) DE**
One with jesses was seen in Bransdale on 24th August.

GYR FALCON *Falco rusticolus*
Reports were received of sightings of a white morph at Port Mulgrave on 14th November, Osthmotherley

Moor on 19th and a large white bird, presumed this species, chasing Woodpigeons at Ellerby on 20th, but no descriptions were received. An escaped white morph (with jesses) was present for eight days at Kelk Beck near Driffield to 26th December, also seen at Gembling near Skipsea, and may account for all sightings.

FALCON *sp.*
A possible Gyr was seen at Hummersea on 22nd October. A probable Gyr *Falco rusticolus* or very large hybrid type flew south Atwick on 15th December.

COCKATIEL *Nymphicus hollandicus* **(Australia) E**
Singles were in Middlesbrough in February, Skelton Castle in April, and singles at Filey on 4th September and a different individual on 29th October. One was at Blackmoorfoot Res on 28th June and two were at Little Preston on 13th December.

PORT LINCOLN PARROT *Barnardius zonarius* **(Australia)**
One frequented gardens in Harrogate from 10th to 24th April.

BUDGERIGAR *Melopittacus undulates* **(Australia) E**
One at Redcar on 18th September.

MASKED LOVEBIRD *Agapornis personata* **(Africa)**
A blue phase was at Little Preston on 22nd January.

ALEXANDRINE PARAKEET *Psittacula alexandri* **(India, SE Asia) E***
Two at Little Preston on 22nd January.

BLUE-AND-YELLOW MACAW *Ara ararauna* **(Central & S America)**
One flew south at Spurn Point on 11th October.

EURASIAN EAGLE OWL *Bubo bubo* **(Palearctic) E***
A pair at the now well-known site raised three young before the female was found shot in November. A bird ringed as a youngster on 18th April 2004 was recovered dead in Eaton, Church Stretton , Shropshire on 15 March 2005 a distance of 218 km, the first ever recovery of a bird of this species breed in the wild. One was found on the canal towpath near to Fishpond Lock, Swillington, on 16th July. One was seen regularly at Sawley/Brimham Rocks area in the latter part of the year.

YELLOW-THROATED BUNTING *Emberiza elegans* **(East Asia) E**
A tame male showed well at Bempton Cliffs RSPB from 22nd to 27th April.

YELLOW-FRONTED CANARY *Serinus mozambicus* **(Africa) E**
One was singing at the Warren at Spurn on 13th September.

MASKED WEAVER *Ploceus intermedius* **(Africa)**
One was at Broomhill in late August.

ZEBRA FINCH *Poephila guttata* **(Australia) E**
One at Redcar on 19th May and another at Skelton Castle on 31st October.

YELLOW-CROWNED BISHOP *Euplectes afer* **(Africa) E**
One at Flamborough on 2nd September.

FIRE-FRONTED BISHOP *Euplectes diadematus* **(Africa)**
One was at a Spofforth feeder on 27th May.

RED BISHOP *Euplectes orix* **(Africa) E**
A male was in song along the cliffs at Scarborough on the 31st October.

EASTERN PARADISE WHYDAH *Vidua paradiseaea* **(Africa)**
A spectacular male was at the Point at Spurn on 17th September.

GREATER BLUE-EARED STARLING *Lamprotornis chalybaeus* **(Africa) E**
One was in a garden at Staxton on the 5th to 7th September.

HYBRID DUCKS

Hybrid AMERICAN WIGEON X EURASIAN WIGEON
A drake was seen at Southfield Res between 19th and 21st November, and again on 1st December.

Hybrid Aythya RED-CRESTED POCHARD X POCHARD?
A drake bird superficially resembling a Redhead *Aythya americana* was seen at Hornsea Mere from 16th to 18th December. This bird had previously been seen at North Cave Wetlands.

Hybrid Aythya TUFTED DUCK X RED-CRESTED POCHARD
Or RING-NECKED DUCK X RED-CRESTED POCHARD HYBRID
At Southfield Res a drake was seen on the 13th March, It appeared basically like a Tufted Duck but not as dark on the back; it had the posture of a Red-crested Pochard and its head appeared taller than a Tufted Duck. It had a rufous crown; and short rufous crest, extending from the rear crown. A prominent white wing-bar was noted. The bill was greyish in colour and the eye was a bright reddish-orange.

Hybrid Aythya resembling FERRUGINOUS DUCK
A hybrid male was seen at Pugney's CP on 5th November and from 4th December to the end of the year.

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO PREVIOUS REPORTS

GREEN-WINGED TEAL *Anas carolinensis*

1996: a drake was present at Otley GP, Wharfedale, on 7th and 12th April (AGG: MP).

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis*

2004: a pair at Potteric Carr arrived on 7th May and settled to nest. They had three failed nesting attempts before being finally seen on 23rd July.

FEA'S PETREL/ZINO'S PETREL *Pterodroma feae/madeira*

2003: date error in 2003 Report – the bird at Flamborough Head flew north on 24th August.

GREAT WHITE EGRET *Ardea alba*

2004: one was at Fairburn Ings on 19th May (VP: CW).

HONEY-BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus*

2000: three additional records from the major influx – on 22nd September, three birds (not two as published) passed over Old Moor RSPB; an adult was seen at Broomhill Ings on 29th September (second bird seen that day) and one flew over Barnside Moor on 30th September. Two birds published for Holmfirth on 22nd September were actually seen at Harden Edge/Tinker Hill.

Red Kite Photo: Dave Mansell

RED KITE *Milvus milvus*

Following the release scheme started in 1999, it soon became impossible to determine the origin of Red Kites in Yorkshire, and this species was removed from the list of species requiring descriptions. During the transition period, descriptions were received and accepted for the following records:
1999: Singles over Barnside Moor on 27th March, Langsett and Midhope on 31st July and over Potteric Carr on 5th October.
2000: Singles were reported over Thorne Moors on 22nd March, Wind Hill Knoll on 31st March and over Wintersett Res on 1st April, over Denaby Ings on 28th April and another over Midhope on 18th July.
2001: One was at Cuthbright Wood (SK58) on 26th and 27th August.

MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus*

2000: a ringtail was seen at Wintersett Res on 22nd April (PM: PSe: MAT). There have now been eight April records since 1960, with this one particularly early.
2001: Corrections: the record published for Spurn Point of a bird on 13th October should be 3rd October and the bird at Barden from 2nd to 4th June was found by G Holmes.

RED-FOOTED FALCON *Falco vespertinus*

2003: a female was at Cleasby GP on 8th June (SCB), bringing the county's total to 62.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos*

2001: an adult was at Hellifield Flash on 6th June (BS *et al.*).

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*

1998: following the seizure of an egg collection in North-east England, it has come to light that a clutch of four eggs of this species were stolen from Wheldrake Ings in April 1998. This means Black-tailed Godwit has been confirmed as breeding most recently in the LDNNR in 1985, 1995, 1998, 2004 and 2006 (*per* CSR).

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*
Caspian Gull *Larus argentatus cachinnans*

2002: a first-winter was present at Langsett Res on 24th, 27th, 29th and 30th December (KC: RDH: PWr: RJB).
2003: the above bird was also seen on 2nd January at Meadowhall, Sheffield (PWr).
2004: an adult was present at Shirecliffe Tip, Sheffield, on 28th February and again from 4th to 7th March (*per* www.birdguides.com).

GULL-BILLED TERN *Sterna nilotica*

2003: on 29th May, one was found roosting in the early morning at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB (DMW). Unfortunately, it was present for only a short time, flying off before anybody else could manage to see it. Now accepted by BBRC, this represents the first inland Yorkshire record. A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding12:2 pp 59-60.*

ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri*

2004: one at Potteric Carr on 8th March may have been the bird seen at Sprotborough the next day.

PALLID SWIFT *Apus pallidus*

2004: two records are to be added following acceptance by BBRC. Singles were seen at Hummersea on 20th October (ECP) and also on 20th October at Spurn (DPB: LJD: SDW *et al.*).

BLACK-BELLIED DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus cinclus*

2002: one at Netherwood on 23rd and 24th November *(per Yorkshire Birding: 11:1).*

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata*
Eastern races *Saxicola t. maura/stejnegeri*

2004: a male was seen on South Gare on 20th October (IJF: RCT).

SUBALPINE WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria*

1998: Amendment - the male seen and photographed at Spurn Point on 12th and 13th May (MJP *et al.*) has now been accepted as being of the race *albistriata*.

PINE BUNTING *Emberiza leucocephalos*
Vagrant; 5 previous records

2004: a male was seen and photographed near Bempton RSPB on 10th April (*per Birdwatch: 144 pp 50-51).*

EARLY and LATE DATES OF SOME MIGRANTS 2005

Species	Earliest date	1997	Latest date	1997
Garganey	21st March	11/03	16th October	16/11
Eurasian Hobby	22nd April	28/04	19th October	15/10
Spotted Crake	11th July	06/05	16th October	24/08
Little Ringed Plover	16th March	12/05	15th October	23/08
Whimbrel	3rd April	20/03	30th October	23/10
Wood Sandpiper	26th April	02/05	28th September	07/10
Common Sandpiper	31st March	05/04	12th November	27/09
Little Tern	12th April	21/04	13th September	22/08
Black Tern	25th April	15/04	2nd November	29/09
Sandwich Tern	15th March	21/03	20th November	10/12
Common Tern	5th April	08/04	13th November	25/10
Roseate Tern	16th June	17/06	17th September	13/09
Arctic Tern	14th April	10/04	20th November	12/10
European Turtle Dove	25th April*	20/04	2nd October	22/09
Common Cuckoo	11th April	11/04	24th September	27/09
Common Swift	2nd April	20/04	5th November	11/10
Sand Martin	7th March	10/03	10th October	10/10
Barn Swallow	18th March	13/03	12th November	29/11
House Martin	26th March	20/03	14th November	07/11
Tree Pipit	12th April	12/04	15th October	23/10
Yellow Wagtail	4th April	06/04	7th October	21/11
Common Redstart	10th April	30/03	19th October	21/10
Whinchat	12th April	02/04	11th October	16/10
Northern Wheatear	18th March	01/03	5th November	04/12
Ring Ouzel	19th March	10/03	9th November	29/11
Grasshopper Warbler	10th April	11/04	17th October	28/09
Sedge Warbler	31st March	11/04	2nd October	06/10
Eurasian Reed Warbler	29th March	18/04	16th October	14/10
Garden Warbler	7th April	13/04	17th October	18/10
Lesser Whitethroat	21st April	06/04	17th October	11/10
Common Whitethroat	10th April	10/04	16th October	21/10
Wood Warbler	24th April	20/04	12th September	18/09
Willow Warbler	18th March	23/04	2nd November	29/10
Spotted Flycatcher	24th April	30/04	25th October	29/09
Pied Flycatcher	7th April	15/04	18th October	19/04
Brambling	30th September	18/09	6th May	28/04
Lapland Bunting	10th September	20/09	9th April	09/05
Snow Bunting	9th September	16/09	17th April	20/04

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

The following observers have contributed records to this report, with apologies for any omissions. Either they have submitted records directly, or their initials appear in a local report for the species included in the systematic list. The Editor thanks all who have submitted records.

R Adams
N W Addey [NWA]
J Adlard [JA]
R Allinson
A M Allport [AMA]
M Anderson [MA]
C E Andrassey [CEA]
M Archer
P Atkins
J E Atkinson [JEA]
I Austin
M Ayers
P Bagguley
R Baines [RBa]
G R Bannister
D C Barker [DCB]
G J Barlow
M Barnett [MB]
J M Bayldon [JMB]
J B Baxter
H E Beaumont
J A Beamont [JAB]
J Beaumont [JB]
R Bedford
C Bell
S C Bell [SCB]
M Bell
G Benn
R Berrington
I Beveridge [IB]
C Bielby [CB]
R W Bird [RWB]
S M Bird [SMB]
M Birley
D Blackmore [DB]
S Blacksmith
M Bland
M A Blick [MAB]
R J B Boland [RJB]
S Boller [SB]
P Bone
H Booth
J Bowers
P K Bowman
D P Boyle [DPB]
C G Bradshaw [CGB]
P Bray [PB]
J Brook
M Brook
J Buxton [JBu]
R Butcher
D Bywater [DBy]
PJ Carlton [PJC]
C Carr [CC]
J Carr [JC]
G Carr [GC]
S Carson
M Carter
N Carter
C S Chapman
S Chappell [SCh]
S Chippendale
R Clarke [RC]
K Clarkson [KC]
M Clay
W Clayden [WC]
T Cleeves
C Clough
E W Clubley [EWC]
B Copley
S Cochrane [SC]
A Cockroft
P Colley
I D Collins [IDC]
P Collins [PC]
J Conlin
D Constantine [DC]
J M Cook
T Cook
B Copley
V Cotton
R Coursey
I R Court [IRC]
D Cowan
E Cowan
M Cowton
T Crease
C Crookson
P Cunningham
M Curtis
W F Curtis [WFC]
J E Dale
R Dale [RD]
J & TG Davies [J&TGD]
R Davis
M H Dawtrey
N C Dawtrey [NCD]
P L Dawtrey
G A Dayes [GAD]
L J Degnan [LJD]
L Delbridge
G Denison
K Denny
S Denny
M L Denton
J Devine
J Dillon [JD]
T Dixon [TD]
G E Dobbs [GED]
C Dodsworth [CD]
S Downing
P Dove
M Doveston [MD]
R Dresser
M Dugmore [MDu]
P J Dunn [PJD]
D Elvidge
B Emson [BE]
S Exley [SE]
R Evison
M K Fanshawe
S Farish [SF]
K Fawcett
C Featherstone [CF]
G Featherstone [GF]
G Firth
I J Fisher [IJF]
C H Flynn
A Forsyth
K Foster
K Foundation
M Francis [MF]
J M Gardner
M Garner [MG]
G Gavanagh [GG]
P Gee
E Gent
G Gent
A J Gibson [AJG]
L Gibson
L Gillard
J Glendinning [JGl]
A Gough [AG]
A G Gough [AGG]
K R Gould
S Gray
P Grba
R Greasley
M Green
S Green
B H Greenacre
C V Greenley [CVG]
P Grice
J Grist
A Haigh
D Hall
J Hall
A M Hanby [AMH]
J Hancox [JHa]
B Hanson [BHa]
S Hardy
B Harman [BH]
J T Harriman
P Harrison
J Harwood [JH]
M Hayes
J Heaton
E J Hediger [EJH]
S Henderson
B Hewitt
J Hewitt [JHe]
J R Hey
S Hey [SH]
I Higginson [IH]
R D Hill [RDH]
H Hipperson [HH]
S Hiner [SHi]
S Hines
A D Hirst
D G Hobson [DGH]
M G Hodges [MGH]
J Holliday [JHl]
A Holmes
G Holmes [GH]
K Holmes
M Holmes [MH]
J Horton [JHo]
B Hoyle
T Hubball
R Hughes
D Hursthouse [DH]
A A Hutt [AAH]
M Ibbotson
T Isherwood
P V Irving [PVI]
D Jackson
B James
A F Johnson [AFJ]
C G Johnson [CGJ]
S Johnson [SJ]
S Johnstone [SJo]
N A Jones
A Jowett
T Keeler
S Kenworthy
N Kershaw
B Kilfallen
T Lally [TL]
D Lambert
M Larner
P Larner
P A Lassey [PAL]
J Law [JL]
J B Leason [JBL]
A Lee
B Leecy
P Leonard
T Lewis
M Limbert
J Line
S Line
J Lobban
D Lomas
E Long
R Long
E Lowe
T Lowe [TLo]
R Lyon [RL]
T McEvoy
J McLoughlin
K Mainprize [KM]
A Malley [AMa]
F Mallinson
D Mansell
A Marshall [AM]
I Marshall [IM]
J I Martin
J R Mather [JRM]
D Mee
G Megson [GM]
C Melchior [CM]
T M Melling
P Meredith [PM]
M Metcalfe
J Middleton [JM]
F Miles
S Mills [SMi]
S Mitchell [SMi]

S L Mitchell [SLM]
S Mitchie
F X Moffat [FXM]
K Moir [KM]
D A Money [DAM]
D H Moor [DHM]
B & S Morland
K R Mudd [KRM]
M G Neal
J O'Malley
B Oliver
J Oliver
N Oliver
E C Parker [ECP]
N Parker [NP]
R T Parrish [RTP]
V Parslow [VP]
A Payne
M Pearson [MP]
S Peel [SP]
K Pendlebury [KP]
DH Pennington
D J Perry [DJP]
J Pewtress
K Pickering
N Pickering [NPi]
J Picton [JP]
M J Pilsworth [MJP]
R Pope [RP]
A Porter
J D Postlethwaite
N A Preston [NAP]
W H Priestley [WHP]
D Proctor [DP]
A Raine
C S Ralston [CSR]
P Reed
J Regan [JR]
A Rhodes [ARh]
T Rhodes [TR]
B Richards [BR]
D Rickards
A Roadhouse [AR]
C C Robinson [CCR]
A J Ross [AJR]
S Routledge (SRo)
M D Rowbotton [MDR]
S St Pierre
J Sanderson [JS]
J Saville [JSa]
D Scott
R J Scott [RJS]
A Scutt [AS]
R Seaton [RSe]
P Senior [PSe]
M Sharpe
C Shields
B Shorrock [BS]
P Short [PSh]
I Simms [IS]
D W Simpson
K Singleton
P R Singleton [PRS]
R S Slack [RSS]
C Slator
G M Smith
P Smith [PS]
P A Smith
A J Snowden [AJS]
J Snowdon [JSn]
M Spedding
G J Speight [GJS]
B R Spence [BRS]
R J Sprakes
D J Standring
M Stead
R Stephenson [RSt]
J Stockhausen [JSt]
D Stokoe
A F Stoyle [AFS]
M F Stoyle [MFS]
M G Stoyle [MGS]
P Strickland [PStr]
B Sumner
D J Sutcliffe [DJS]
P Swallow
R J Swales [RJS]
A Symonds
P Talbot
M Taunton [MTa]
B Taylor [BT]
G Taylor [GT]
G C Taylor [GCT]
J Taylor [JT]
R C Taylor [RCT]
R Taylor [RT]
C Teal
C C Thomas [CCT]
G Thomas [GTh]
M S Thomas [MST]
D Thurlow [DT]
P Tomlinson [PT]
B M Thompson
E Thompson
G Thompson
J Thompson [JT]
J W Thompson [JWT]
M A Thompson[MAT]
J Thurlston [JTh]
G Todd [GTo]
J L Topham
P Towers
P T Treloar
A Tremithick [AT]
T Tudor
M Tulloch [MT]
J Turner
J M Turton [JMT]
D Venus [DV]
B B Vickers [BV]
D M Waddington
G Waddington [GW]
S D Waite [SDW]
N Walker [NW]
D P A Ward
M J Warrington
J Warwick
S P & Mrs J Warwick
J Wasse
I Webster [IW]
M C Wells
I C Whitehouse [ICW]
N P Whitehouse [NPW]
S J M Whitehouse [SJW]
S Wignill [SWi]
D Wilson
M Wilson [MW]
C Winn [CW]
R Winspear [RW]
J Wint
K Woolley [KW]
P Wood
D Woods
D H Woodmansey
S Worrall
S P Worwood [SPW]
J Wozencroft
P Wragg [PWr]
A Zabukas

LOCAL REPORTS

The following local society and club reports have been received, and readers requiring additional information on those areas are advised to consult the relevant report.

Blacktoft Sands RSPB Ornithological Report 2005
Blackmoorfoot Res Bird Report 2005
Bradford Ornithological Group 2005
Cleveland Bird Report 2005 (Teesmouth Bird Club)
Fairburn Ings Bird Report 2005
Filey Brigg Bird Report 2005 (Filey Brigg Ornithological Group)
Flamborough Head Bird Report 2005 (Flamborough Head Ornithological Group)
Halifax Bird Report 2005
Harrogate and District Naturalists' Society Bird Report 2005
Hull Valley Report 2005 (Hull Valley Wildlife Group)
Lancashire Bird Report 2005
Old Moor and Broomhill Ings Bird Report 2005
Pugneys CP Report 2005
Rodley NR Report 2005
Ryedale Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre Report 2005
Scarborough District Bird Report 2005 (The Scalby Nabs Ornithological Group)
South Holderness Countryside Society (Newsletters)
Southfield Reservoirs & Went Ings Bird Reports 2005
Sprotbrough Flash and Don Gorge Ornithological Report 2005
Spurn Wildlife No. 15 (Spurn Bird Observatory)
Swillington Ings Bird Group Report 2005
Thorne Moors Bird Report 2005
Thorpe Marsh Nature Reserve Report 2005
Wintersett Bird Report 2005

Reports and lists were also received from:

Barnsley Bird Study Group; Beal Carrs; Cononley Ornithological Group; Fylingdale Moor Bird Surveys; New Earswick; Pudsey Ornithological Club; Pulfin and High Eske NR; Saltmarshe Delph; Sheffield Bird Study Group; Thrybergh CP; Upper Wharfedale Field Society; Wakefield Naturalist Society; Wharfedale Naturalists' Society; Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA); Yorkshire Dales Upland Bird Study Group (YDUBSG). Rotherham Birds and Swaledale Birds websites were also accessed and records in VC 65 provided by East Dales Ringing Group, Swaledale Ringing Group and the log books at High Batts NR and Nosterfield NR.

RARE BREEDING BIRDS IN YORKSHIRE

Observers who have first-hand knowledge of rare breeding birds within the county are requested to submit their evidence to the appropriate Vice-County Recorder or the Report Editor, to be forwarded to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel. The RBBP was formed in 1972 by representatives of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the British Trust for Ornithology, The Nature Conservancy Council and *British Birds*. The present Panel is made up of representatives of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, RSPB, BTO, and the Association of County Report Editors, together with two independent members and a Secretary. The Panel's prime function is to act as a secure depository of sensitive information on the breeding of rare birds in Britain.

Information is required for most species on Schedule 1 of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act and other rare species dealt with by the Panel, including all the scarcer non-native breeding species, including feral geese, Black Swan, Muscovy Duck, Parakeets *etc.* Information is requested on breeding or potential breeding records of all of these species in three categories:

possible probable proved

Definitions of these categories are on the recording forms.

Species for which information is required that are known to have bred, or attempted to breed, in recent years in Yorkshire are listed below.

Data is no longer required by the RBBP from 2006 for Barn Owl, Kingfisher and Common Crossbill but additions are Northern Shoveler, Water Rail and Hawfinch. Cetti's Warbler data will be submitted now that breeding has occurred in the county.

*Gadwall
Pintail
Garganey
Shoveler
*Common Pochard
Black-necked Grebe
Bittern
Honey-buzzard
Marsh Harrier
*Hen Harrier
Montagu's Harrier
*Northern Goshawk
*Hobby
Quail
Water Rail
Spotted Crake
Corn Crake
Avocet
*Little Ringed Plover
Black-tailed Godwit
Little Gull
Roseate Tern
*Little Tern
Eagle Owl
*Wood Lark
Bluethroat
Black Redstart
Fieldfare
Cetti's Warbler
Marsh Warbler
Firecrest
*Bearded Tit
Golden Oriole
Parrot Crossbill
Hawfinch
*Common Rosefinch

In the case of the Less Scarce Species (marked * above), the VC Recorder prepares a summary each year for the Panel.

For the Rare Species, recording forms are completed detailing the status, success and site of each pair.

The system used by the Panel for indicating geographical locations in their report is done on a regional basis with Yorkshire being part of "England North". In some instances the county will be named but should the observer request the omission of "Yorkshire" the Panel will respect this with only the region being named. A full list of the species considered by the Panel appeared in *British Birds 81: p 102 – 103*, and is on the RBBP website.

Observers may, if they wish, submit records directly to the Panel Secretary, but the normal procedure is to send them in the first instance to the relevant County Recorder who will forward them to the Panel.

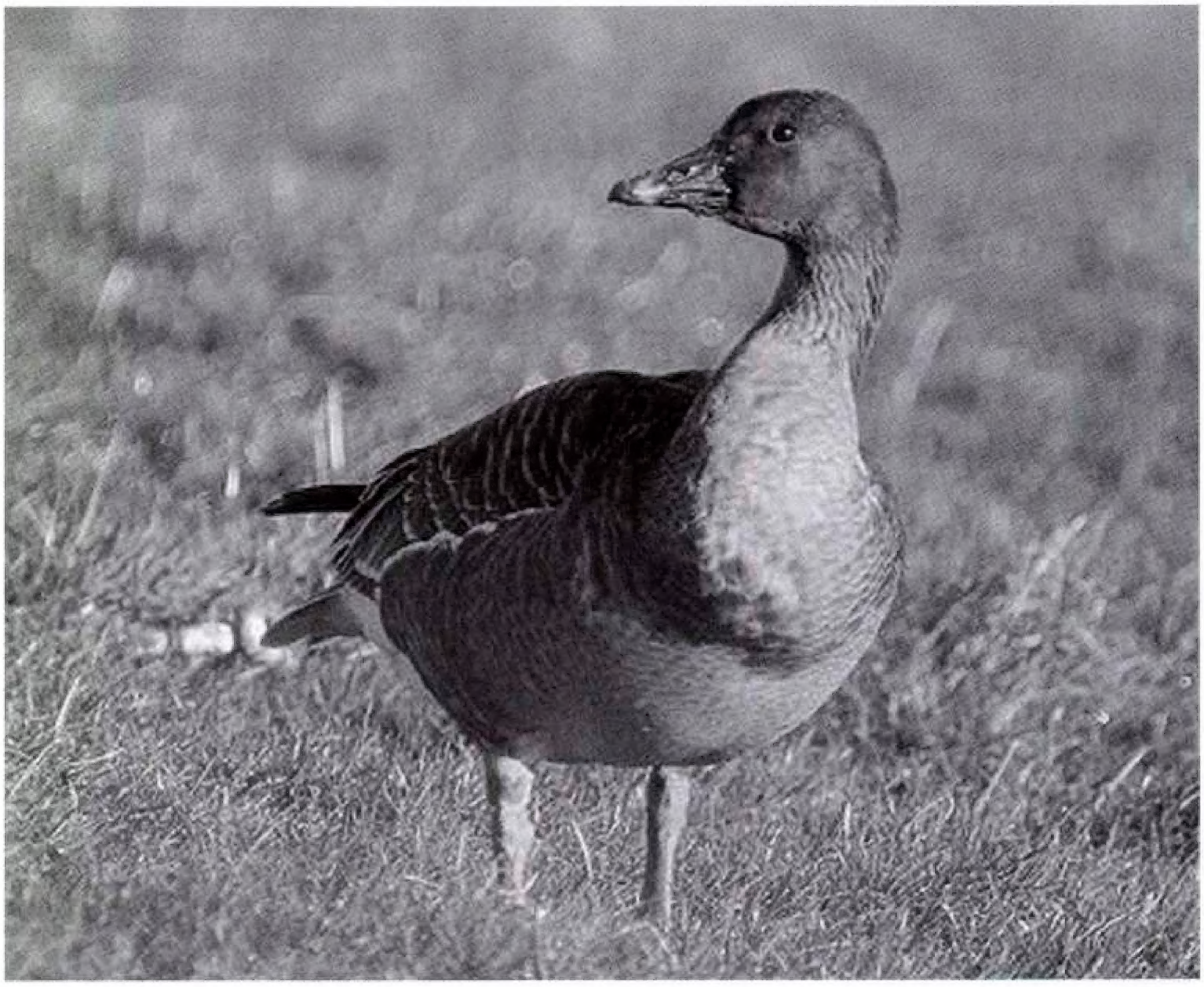
Panel report forms are available from the Report Editor, Vice-County recorders or direct from the RBBP by post or from the RBBP website.

Write to:
The Secretary, (Mark Holling) Rare Breeding Birds Panel,
The Old Orchard, Grange Road, North Berwick,
East Lothian. EH39 4QT

Phone: 01620-894037 e-mail: secretary@rbbp.org.uk website: www.rbbp.org.uk

The deadline for submission of records by county recorders for 2006 is 30th April 2008.

A REVIEW OF BEAN GEESE RECORDS 1970-2005



Tundra Bean Goose Photo: Sean Gray

Following the publication of the Review of Bean Geese Records in the YNU 2001 Rare and Scarce Bird Report, all descriptions on file that can be located have been examined. As previously explained, Bean Geese reported as part of WeBS counts can be submitted to the WWT without the need for a description, so a number of published records had not been verified at county level. This was a particular concern with regard to the status of Taiga Bean Goose *A. f. fabalis*, which is a very scarce visitor to the county.

In 2007, it was decided to remove Tundra Bean Goose *A. f. rossicus* from the list of species requiring a description, but descriptions are still required for Taiga Bean Goose *A. f. fabalis*. The review has therefore focussed mainly on the latter subspecies. Very few descriptions could be found in the files since 1971 – for instance, only two birds in 1976 and two birds in 1977, listed below, and only 17 of the 93 reported in VC 61 in 1979, although a complete set of files for VC 61 was available. The record has not been changed for the totals of Bean Geese reported during that period, as it is unclear which records were substantiated by descriptions, some of which appear to have been lost. For claimed Taiga Bean Goose, where no description or photograph was filed the record has not been accepted and has been removed from the county's record. Some of these may well have been Bean Geese. In the process of the review, some un-submitted records were submitted, and these have now been assessed by the Reports Committee and added to the table.

1972: 120 seen on Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 8th February (*anon.*), and an unknown number was seen on 30th January by A Chapman, Humber Wildfowl Refuge warden, not considered acceptable. Unfortunately, no description was supplied for this flock, and the original submission is no longer on file, although one shot and photographed on 29th January was accepted and published at the time, and remains on record.

1976: two birds seen at Kilnsea on 30th and 31st January (JMT *et al.*) were *rossicus* based on structure and bill pattern.

1977: two birds seen at Fraisthorpe on 19th February (NAB: GED: CDRH) showed size, structure and bill pattern of *fabalis* and are now accepted as being of this form.

1978: one seen in June at Studley Park, Ripon on 8th and Gouthwaite Res on 12th, and it or another in the Masham area from 20th July to 30th September, are regarded as escapes and are not included in the totals.

1979: the party of 18 at Barmston on 1st March is regarded as the same as 18 at Hornsea Mere on 26th February, but the party of 17 with a Pinkfoot *Anser brachyrhynchus* at Spurn on 23rd and 24th February, and 16 still present with a Pinkfoot on 10th March, are regarded as a separate flock. The majority of this flock, the only one for which a description is available (SML et *al.*), were regarded as *rossicus*.

1980: the bird at Seamer GP on 30th May is regarded as unlikely to be of wild origin.

1981: two described at Wheldrake Ings on 6th November (later three seen) are thought to be *fabalis* on bill pattern and structure, and size (DW). Six Bean Geese *sp.* seen at Spurn on 27th/28th October included one with an all-orange bill, which seems unusual.

1982: three *fabalis* remained at Wheldrake in January from 1981, and may have been the same three seen at Hornsea Mere in March, as photographs show these also to be *fabalis* (SML). Another party of three *sp.* was seen concurrently at Sunk Island in January (SML). Fifteen that flew in to Wheldrake on 7th February (not 17th as published) were *rossicus* on bill pattern (TB: RSS), while one on 28th February, 20th March and 7th and 13th April may have been one of the three *fabalis* seen in January (DB: TB DW).

1986: one at Wheldrake Ings from 12th March to 19th April (DW), and one at Tophill Low on 13th September (SML: JBL) are both accepted as *fabalis.*

1989: one *fabalis* was at Wheldrake on 12th March (TED *et al.*).

1991: one *rossicus* at Tophill Low in December (RL *et al.*) as published, and additionally two *rossicus* at Barmston in December (PP).

1996: an additional *rossicus* was seen at Hornsea Mere on 2nd February (GED *et al.*), 12 at Patrington Haven on 11th February and 15 there on 22nd, with two also on Sunk Island (GED) and three there on 10th March (DC: GED). Seven seen at Catwick tip from 28th January to 2nd February same as seven published as near Hornsea Mere on 2nd (BR *et al.*).

1997: up to four *fabalis* were seen at Filey Dams in January. No others were described.

1998: no *fabalis* were described and all have been removed.

1999: a flock of 175 at North Duffield Carrs on 13th and 14th February, without a supporting description, is no longer considered acceptable.

2000: none of the LDNNR *fabalis* were satisfactorily described, although they were confirmed as Bean Geese *sp.* and have been moved to that column.

Observers Initials

T Barker (TB), N A Bell (NAB), D Braithwaite (DB), D Constantine (DC), T E Dixon (TED), G E Dobbs (GED), C D R Heard (CDRH), S M Lister (SML), R Lyon (RL), B Richards (BR), R S Slack (RSS), J M Turton (JMT), D Waudby (DW).

As a result of the review, a total of 48 Taiga Bean Geese for the county up to and including 2005 seems to be more realistic, based on descriptions received, and what is known about movements of the Norfolk and Scottish wintering flocks. The small numbers occasionally seen are more likely to be wanderers from the continent. However, differentiation between the two forms of Bean Goose is not straightforward, with variations in bill shape and pattern apparent even within flocks of birds of the same body size, showing that some birds, especially lone individuals and small parties without other geese for comparison, can be difficult to assign to race.

Influx years of 1976, 1979 and 1996 correspond with the national picture, and most if not all of these birds were no doubt *rossicus*.

G E Dobbs 2007, on behalf of the Reports Committee

Year	Bean Goose *sp.*		*fabalis*		*rossicus*		Total
	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	
1970	0	0					0
1971	1	1					1
1972	1 (shot)	1					1
1973	1	1					1
1974	1	1					1
1975	7	7					7
1976	64	62			0	2	64
1977	23	21	0	2			23
1978	19	19					19
1979	106	106					106
1980	8	8					8
1981	17	17					17
1982	25	7	0	3	0	15	25
1983	6	6					6
1984	22	22					22
1985	33	33			3	3	36
1986	12	10	0	2			12
1987	27	27					27
1988	11	11					11
1989	5	4	0	1			5
1990	31	29			1	3	32
1991	9	9	2	2	2	2	13
1992	8	8			3	3	11
1993	49	49			8	8	57
1994	23	23					23
1995	23	23			8	8	31
1996	1	21	20	0	183	202	223
1997	33	33	70	4	27	27	64
1998	4	4	66	0	12	12	16
1999	2	2	210	8	76	76	86
2000	7	17	10	0	1	1	18
2001	0	0	3	3	16	16	19
2002	1	1	4	4	1	1	6
2003	34	34	7	7	13	13	54
2004	10	10	12	12	30	30	52
2005	12	12	0	0	9	9	21

Yorkshire Bird Report 2005

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